



# A DICTIONARY OF IDIOMS & PHRASES

OR

HOW TO USE PHRASES IN A SENTENCE ?

*Containing 2000 classified and Selected Idiomatic,  
Prepositional, Commercial and other Miscellaneous  
phrases and proverbs with appropriate prepositions  
Explained and Illustrated*

BY

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## AN APPEAL TO THE READER.

Encouraged by the success of our *MONEY'S SERIES* and *MONEY'S NEW MODEL STUDENT STANDARD DICTIONARY* which had a remarkable and rapid sale, having passed through two editions in less than a year, we have ventured to bring out the present ambitious work entitled *A DICTIONARY OF IDIOMS AND PHRASES OR HOW TO USE PHRASES IN A SENTENCE*.

In this connection, we bring to your kind notice that we are going to bring all the manuscripts which were left to us by Mr. A. Govindaraja Mudaliar, B.A., L.T., in the name and style of *MONEY'S HAND BOOK SERIES*.

We trust that the literary public will encourage us with their patronage.

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## FOREWORD.

This booklet of 4 parts edited by Mr. A. Govindaraja Mudaliar is the outcome of the laborious task and strenuous efforts he has made in this direction, to bring it to light of the day. As an experienced pedagogue, with vast knowledge in English Literature, he knew what the difficulties of the students are, where they generally err and what methods could be adopted to make them command correct but beautiful and elegant language. He has solved the problem, in the publication of this book, which in my honest opinion is the most suitable one, for the Indian students learning English language. The appropriate explanations and the self interpreting sentences he has used, to bring out the exact meaning of the phrases or idioms or proverbs are highly commendable. I am quite sure that the student population will find it very useful and encourage the author with their kind patronage and wide publicity. May God, the giver of all gifts, shower His choicest blessings upon the author of this worthy book with prosperity and popularity, is the sincere prayer of:

MADRAS,  
15-11-47.

T. SESHIAH, B.A., L.T.,  
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## P R E F A C E .

It is now my earnest desire to unfold to the student, population, here and abroad, the fund of knowledge hidden in English literature, as depicted in the idiomatic phrases. The beauty and elegance of any language consist more in the correct usage of the appropriate phrases and idioms, at the proper place, in a suitable context, than in the high sounding words or bombastic style adopted by a person. With a view to enable the students of the High School to learn the correct use of the prepositions, and proverbs, phrases and idioms, I have undertaken this labourious task of collecting the most important and frequently used words occurring in daily usage. I have also brought out the exact meaning of these with necessary explanations. Besides, the self explanatory sentences given below each of such idioms, or phrases, or proverbs will enable the pupil to know how and in what sense they can be properly used.

This booklet has been divided into 4 parts. The first part deals with the phrases and appropriate prepositions. The second part touches upon the idiomatic phrases. The third part is focussed upon the useful, prepositional and commercial phrases. The fourth part has been devoted entirely for the usage of proverbs and miscellaneous phrases.

This little book of 4 parts each dealing with a different theme has been found to be very useful to the students and has received the acclamation and admiration of many educationalists. But, its patronage is completely in the hands of the students. I am quite sure that the students will derive much benefit from it and encourage me by all possible methods by giving me useful suggestions for further improvement.

A. G. M.



## INTRODUCTION

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An idiom is a mode of expression peculiar to language. It is important to realise that an idiom may not be varied at the whim and fancy of an individual writer. The maltreatment of idiom is often a common fault in writing. Idiom implies a phrase stamped by the usage of a language or of a writer with a signification other than its grammatical or logical one. Unless, therefore, the meaning of every idiom is fully explained it cannot be fully understood and used in a correct way.

The following are some of the idiomatic expressions explained and illustrated for the use of Indian Students.



# A DICTIONARY of IDIOMS & PHRASES.

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## Part. I

### Phrases with appropriate prepositions.

#### A

*Abide at or in* — stay at. ex. (1) In summer I used to *abide* at Ooty. reside or dwell in a house. ex. (2) I propose to *abide in* "Lake view" during the vacation.

*Abide by* — Act according to: ex. The company must *abide by* the contract.

*Abound in* — Be found plentiful in. ex. "There are fruits that do not much *abound in* our gardens here." (Goldsmith)

*Above all* — Chiefly; more than all. ex. "By faith I do not mean belief in dogmas, but belief in goodness, belief is justice, *above all*, belief in truth" (Froude.)

*About to, to be* — To be on the point of; to be ready to; to be in act of. ex. (1) As the merchant was *about to*

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go to New York, to purchase goods, he received a telegram announcing the death of his mother.  
(2) The Doctor's son is *about* to be married.

*Above-board* — in open sight; without concealment or deception. ex. All that you do must be *above-board* so that all may see everything.

*Absent-minded* — Inattentive to what is passing; having the thoughts away from the present subject or scenes. One of the students was very *absent-minded*, when the lecture was going on.

*According to* — In accordance with; in a manner according with. ex. (1) Make it *according to* the pattern. (2) Live *according to* your income.

*Accord with, to* — To agree with; to suit. ex. The miser's style of living does not *accord with* his means.

*Act up to* — To equal in action; to fulfill. Every pupil should *act up to* the advise of his master.

*Addicted to* — Devoted, habituated, or given to. ex. Even though he is young, he is already *addicted to* evil courses.

*Afford it* — To expend with profit, or without loss. ex. I cannot *afford to* buy a car. I will buy it when I *can afford it*.

*Agree to* — To yield assent. ex. I offered him Rs. 1000 a year to do the work, and he *agreed to* the offer.

*Agree with* — (1) To suit or be adapted in its effects.  
(2) To come to terms (3) To resemble.

ex. (1) Coffee does not *agree with* some persons.

(2) Did you not *agree with* me, to work for Rs. 3 a day?

(3) The picture does not *agres with* the original.

*All at once* — Abruptly; suddenly. ex. I was reading, when *all at once* there came a loud knock. *All at once* the ship gave a lurch.

*All in all* — To be everything; to be mutually devoted. ex. The principal is found to be *all in all* in the college.

*A man of letters* — An educated and literary man; one who makes literature his pursuit. ex. Being *a man of letters*, he was introduced into good society.

*As far as* — To that extent or degree or distance. ex. I will walk with you *as far as* the church. *As far as* I know, there are no peaches in market.

*As good as* — In effect; virtually; not less than. ex. He is *as good as* a thief.

*A short cut* — A short route. ex. Instead of going to town by the road, the boy took *a short cut* across the fields.

*As if* — Of the same kind, or in the same manner, that it would be if. ex. The mountain appears, *as if* it was covered with snow.

*As it were* — so to speak; ex. (1) This book gives, *as it were*, a picture of the country. (2) He rose, at one leap, *as it were*, to the highest office.

*As much as to say* — Equivalent to saying; just the same as saying. ex. You said, "all right" which was *as much as to say* that you were satisfied.

*As one man* — with unity of design and action. ex. When Hitler threatened to invade the English they rose up *as one man* to fight the enemy.

*As soon as* — In a short time. ex. (1) Come back *as soon as* you can. No sooner than; immediately after;

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the very moment. ex. (2) "*As soon as* the two envoys has departed, Tyrconnel set himself to prepare for the conflict which had become inevitable." (Macaulay.)

*As such* — In that character; ex. The council could not pass the resolution *as such*, as there were innumerable oppositions.

*As well as* — And also; not less than; one as much as the other. ex. (1) The fever will attack you, *as well as* me. (2) London is the largest city in England, *as well as* the capital.

*Ashamed of* — Affected by (shame on account of.) ex. "I have done nothing *of* which I need *ashamed*" (Macaulay.)

*Assent to* — Agree or consent to: ex. He *assented to* all that was suggested. These conditions were *assented to* (Macaulay)

*Assess at* — Determine or fix the rate or amount of: ex. His house-tax has been *assessed at* fifty rupees half-yearly.

*Associate with* — Join or unite in company with: ex. Never *associate with* people of bad character" (Mc Mordie)

*Astonished at* — Filled with wonder or surprise at. ex. I cannot conceive how it is that people who are in love with their own persons are *astonished at* their performance.

*At a blow* — Suddenly; at one effort; by one action: ex. The Persian army was once annihilated *at a blow*.

*At a loss* — To be puzzled; to be unable to determine; to be in a state of uncertainty. ex. I missed my train, and was *at a loss* to know what to do.

*At a low ebb*—To be in a state of decline or decay. ex. Manufacturing business is *at a low ebb*.

*At an end*—Gone; lost; over: ex. (1) By this time all hostilities were *at an end*, (2) "His hopes of employment in the public service were *at an end*" (Macaulay.)

*At any rate*—In any event; At least. ex. (1) She determined *at any rate* to get free from the prison in which she found herself. (2) The man was stupid and heavy; *at any rate* he seemed so to me.

*At a stand*—To stop on account of some doubt or difficulty. ex. When the bills were presented, the bank was closed, and I was very much *at a stand*.

*At a stretch*—At one effort; consecutively; uninterruptedly. ex. (1) The pedestrian walked twenty miles *at a stretch*. (2) He studied ten hours *at a stretch*.

*At bay*—A state of being kept off, or of detention and expectancy. ex. The inhabitants of Madras kept the plague *at bay* by adopting proper sanitary measures.

*At best*—In the utmost degree or extent applicable to the case. ex. Life is very short, *at best*.

*At every turn*—In every step. ex. (1) I went to town, and met my friends *at every turn*. (2) He was disappointed *at every turn* in his attempt to raise money.

*At first sight*—At the very first meeting. ex. The girl declared that she had fallen in love with the boy *at first sight*.

*At heart*—In the true character or disposition; really: ex. His manners are cold, but *at heart* he is a kind man.

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*At his best* — In his best style, or workmanship or the like. ex. In the style of the book, the author is *at his best*.

*At issue* — In controversy ; disputed ; at variance ; disagreeing ; inconsistent. ex. In the revolutionary war, England & America were *at issue* concerning American Independence.

*At large* — (1) Without restraint or confinement ; at liberty. ex. In his recent work he has treated of international law *at large*. He is a gentleman *at large*. "The world *at large* is the arbiter of a nation's fame". (Irving).

*At last* — At the end ; in the conclusion ex. I had many obstacles in obtaining an interview with the prime minister, but *at last* I succeeded.

*At length* — Finally ; after so long time. ex. *At length* the plumber has discovered what is the matter with the water-pipe.

*At leisure* — Free from occupation ; not busy. ex. (1) I am *at leisure* now. (2) You may do it *at your leisure*.

*At liberty* — Free ; unconfined. ex. Every one is *at liberty* to discuss such matters.

*At most ; at the most* — At the utmost extent. ex. There were *at most* hundred persons present at the meeting.

*At one's mercy* — Completely in one's power or favour. ex. The prisoner pleaded guilty and threw himself *at the judge's mercy*.

*At one's service* — To be ready to assist one. ex. I am *at your service*.

*At peace* — In a state of peace ; not engaged in war. ex.  
The United States is *at peace* with other nations.

*At random* — Without any fixed aim or purpose ; at a venture. ex. He talks *at random* ; sure, the man is mad. (Shakespeare)

*At short notice* — In a brief time ; promptly ex. (1) This work was done *at short notice*. (2) Please be ready to come *at short notice*.

*At the bottom of* — In the lowest part of, ex. (1) The cottage stood *at the bottom of* the hill. (2) Who is *at the bottom of* this disturbance ?

*At the mercy of* — Entirely in the power or favour of. ex.  
(1) The shipwrecked sailors were *at the mercy of* the winds and waves. (2) "Your life lies *at the mercy of* the Duke" (Lamb)

*Attempt at* — Effort to gain (a point) ; endeavour at. ex. "They withstood all *attempts at* reform" (Freeman.)

*Averse to* — Having a dislike or repugnance to : ex. I am always *averse to* double dealing.

*Award to* — Give by sentence or determination to ; adjudge to : ex. The senior scholarship was *awarded to* Vidyasagar.

*Aware of* — Conscious of : ex. I was not *aware of* your intention. (McMordie)

## B

*To bear a hand* — to assist others in carrying out a task. ex. Come, *bear a hand* here, we need assistance-assist.

*To bear arms* — to fight. ex. Every able-bodied man was called upon *to bear arms* in defence of his country - to fight.

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*To bear down* — to crush ; to overwhelm. ex. So impetuous was the onset of the cavalry brigade that it *bore down* all opposition - crushed.

*To bear off* — to carry away. ex. A wolf entered the fold and *bore off* a lamb - carried away.

*To bear on* — to act upon. ex. The increased duties will *bear heavily on* importers and consumers - act upon.

*To bear out* — to support ; (*in argument*). ex. Do you *bear me out* in this matter ? - support me.

*To bear one hard* — to be unfriendly to (obsolete) ex. Cæsar doth *bear me hard* - is unfriendly to me ; treats me cruelly.

*To bear the brunt of* — to sustain or endure the severest shock of a contest. ex. The regulars have to *bear the brunt of* the attack, the volunteers being held in reserve - sustain the severest shock.

*To bear the palm* — to carry off the prize. ex. He *bore the palm* at the annual examination. - carried off the prize.

*To bear through* — to manage ; to support the end. ex. Religion can *bear man through* the ills of life - conduct.

*To bear up* — to stand firm ; to keep from falling. ex. (1) He *bore up* amid all the persecutions to which he was exposed - stood firm. ex. (2) Hope *bears up* the mind under sufferings - supports.

*To bear upon* — to be connected with ; to act upon. ex. 1. Your remarks do not *bear upon* the subject in hand - have no connection with. 2. The guns were so placed as to *bear upon* the fort - act upon.

*To bear down upon* — to approach deliberately. ex. He was *bearing down upon* them - approaching them deliberately.

*To bear with* — to endure; to have patience with. ex. (1) I cannot *bear with* your impertinence any longer - endure.  
(2) *Bear with* me while I explain matters to you - have patience with.

*To bear in mind* — to remember; to recollect. ex. I *bore* him *in mind* - recollected or thought of him.

*To beat an alarm* — to give a warning of danger, by beating a drum. ex. On the approach of the enemy the drummers *beat an alarm* - gave a warning of danger.

*To beat about* — to search diligently. ex. He *beat about* to find a good excuse - search diligently.

*To beat about the bush* — to approach a subject by indirect arguments or evasion of the point at issue. ex. He tried to *beat about the bush*, but I compelled him to come to the point without further delay - to evade the point at issue.

*To beat at* — to knock at. ex. The men of the city *beat at* the door - knock at.

*To beat one with one's own weapons* — to defeat, subdue or overcome one with his own arguments. ex. I hear that my brother was *beaten with his own weapons* - was defeated with his own arguments.

*To beat the air* — to endeavour in vain; to struggle in vain. ex. His attempt to escape the misfortune was simply *beating the air* - struggling in vain.

*To beat a retreat* — to retire. ex. On the advance of the English army, the enemy *beat a retreat* - retired.

*To beat down* — to lower the price. ex. The owner asked Rs. 450 for the horse; but I *beat him down* to Rs.300-  
made him lower the price.

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*To beat off* — to drive back. ex. The wolf tried to carry away a lamb but was *beaten off* by the dogs - driven back.

*To beat out* — to extend by hammering; to surpass. ex. Gold can be *beaten out* more than other metals - extended by hammering.

*To beat time* — to regulate music by the measured motion of the hand or foot. ex. He *beat time* with his foot while singing - measured time.

*To beat up* — to gather; search out and collect. ex. He went round to all his friends to *beat up* a meeting - collect.

*To break a lance with* — to enter into a combat with a rival, (each being mounted and armed with a spear and shield); to contend with another in any way. ex. My friend challenged me to *break a lance* with him.

*To break away* — to go away abruptly; to escape from custody by using physical force. ex. The prisoner tried to *break away*, but was prevented by his captors - to escape.

*To break bulk* — to begin to unload. ex. Has the ship *broken bulk* yet? - begun to discharge its cargo.

*To break cover* — to come forth from a lurking place. ex. The tiger we were in search of soon *broke cover* - came forth from its hiding place.

*To break down* — to lose control over one's feelings; to fail in any undertaking. ex. (1) His health has quite *broken down* - failed. (2) The enterprise soon *broken down* - failed. The poor woman *broke down* when she heard of her husband's death - lost self-control.

*To break forth*—to burst out; to exclaim. ex. Hearing this, the prisoner *broke forth* into loud appeals for mercy - burst out.

*To break from*—to escape with suddenness. ex. Two of the prisoners *broke from* the guard and were soon out of sight - suddenly escaped.

*To break ground*—to commence operations; to take the first step in any undertaking. ex. The prisoners *broke the ground* for the advancing army - commenced operations.

*To break in*—to train to some employment or service; to interrupt another with a remark. ex. He is trying to *break in* his horse for the buggy - train.

*To break into*—to enter forcibly. ex. Thieves *broke into* my house last night - forcibly entered.

*To break loose*—to escape from confinement. ex. Five prisoners have *broken loose* - escaped from captivity.

*To break one of*—to cause to give up. ex. I must *break you of* your inquisitiveness - cause you to give up.

*To break off*—to stop suddenly; to abandon. ex. The orator *broken off* in the middle of his speech-stopped suddenly.

*To break out*—to discover itself in sudden effects. ex. Cholera has *broken out* in the city - appeared suddenly.

*To break the heart*—to overwhelm with grief. ex. His unnatural conduct *broke* his poor mother's heart - overwhelmed his mother with grief.

*To break through*—to violate; to force a passage. ex. 1. You are always *breaking through* the rules of the school-violating. 2. The thief *broke through* the wall of the house - forced a passage.

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*To break up*—to be near death; to show signs of approaching dissolution. ex. The meeting *broke up* at 12 o'clock - was dismissed.

*To break with*—to part friendship. ex. John's dishonesty caused me to *break with* him - part friendship with.

*To break the ice*—to commence a conversation where there has been an awkward silence; to speak first on a delicate matter. ex. "I will not" said Lochiel, "*break the ice*" - speak first on the subject or matter.

*To break the neck of*—(or, back of) to accomplish a large portion of a task. ex. Thus, by the time the family assembled for breakfast between nine and ten, he had done enough - to use his own words - *break the neck of* the day's work - to complete the greater portion of his day's work.

*To bring about*—to cause to happen. ex. How was the peace *brought about*? - effected or caused.

*To bring back*—to recall; to restore. ex. I compelled my servant to *bring back* the goods he had stolen - restore.

*To bring down*—to humble; to humiliate. ex. Will it not be a good thing to *bring down* this man's pride? - to humble.

*To bring down the house*—to elicit the applause of all the spectators. ex. The great musician's playing simply *brought down the house*.

*To bring forth*—to give birth to. ex. The lioness *brings forth* only one cub at a time - gives birth to.

*To bring forward*—to introduce; to propose. ex. The Government of Madras will *bring forward* the Prohibition Bill again next session - propose.

*To bring in* — to yield, as profit or income ; to enact ; to pronounce ; to introduce. ex. (1) This business *brings in* large profits ; this estate *brings in* a large income - to yield. (2) The jury *brought in* a verdict of "guilty" - pronounced. (3) Strange fashions have recently been *brought in* - introduced.

*To bring into play* — to cause to act ; to set in motion ; to give scope to. ex. He *brought* his musical genius *into play* - gave vent to-or exercised his musical skill.

*To bring off* — to take away ; to clear from ; to acquit. ex. Have all the men who were on board the sinking vessel been *brought off* ? - removed from it.

*To bring on* - to originate, or occasion ; to bring forward. ex. Exposure to the rain *brought on* dysentery - caused.

*To bring out* — to exhibit ; to introduce to the public. ex. A new drama is to be *brought out* next month - introduced to the public.

*To bring over* — to convert ; to draw to a new party. ex. Three Hindus have recently been *brought over* to Muhamminadanism - converted.

*To bring round* — to restore ; to cause to recover. ex. The medicine soon *brought* him *round* - caused him to recover ; revived him.

*To bring to* — to check the course of a ship. ex. The ship was soon *brought to* - checked.

*To bring to a stand still* — to stop. ex. The work has been *brought to a stand still* - stopped.

*To bring to book or to account* — to call to account. ex. He was *brought to book* for his insubordination-called to account.

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*To bring to mind* — to recall to memory. ex. The sight of him *brought my friend to mind* - recalled to memory.

*To bring to light* — to make clear; to discover. ex. All his misdeeds have been *brought to light* - made public.

*To bring to pass* — to effect. ex. That which God proposes He always *brings to pass* - effects or accomplishes.

*To bring to bear upon* — to apply. ex. The expert *brought all his skill and experience to bear on the case* - apply.

*To bring under* — to subdue. ex. The disaffected troops were soon *brought under* - reduced to obedience.

*To bring up* — to educate; to vomit; to bring forward.  
ex. 1. Children should be *brought up* carefully - educated. 2. He ate so much salt that he *brought up* the whole of his dinner - vomited.

*To call attention to* — to invite or draw attention to. ex. I have the honour to *call your attention to* my letter of 15th instat - to draw attention to.

*To call a spade a spade* — to call things by their correct names. ex. Such acts amount to a crime against the established Government; we must *call a spade a spade*, and not describe such deeds as patriotic actions - call things by their proper names.

*To call at a place* — to visit a place. ex. The Inspector-General *called at* the school to-day - visited.

*To call back* — to revoke; to bring again. ex. The order has been *called back* - revoked or withdrawn.

*To call down* — to invite or bring down. ex. Sin *calls down* God's anger - invites or brings down.

*To call for* — to demand or need. ex. I must *call for* an explanation of his conduct - demand.

*To call forth* — to bring into view or action. ex. His remarks *called forth* much opposition - roused.

*To call in* — to appeal to for assistance; to withdraw. ex. (1) He became so ill that we were obliged to *call in* the doctor - seek the aid of. (2) All the clipped coin has been *called in* - withdrawn from circulation.

*To call in question* — to doubt or challenge the truth of. ex. No one will dare to *call in question* the honesty of his intentions, in spite of his failure - to doubt.

*To call off* — to bring away; to divert. ex. Two of the men were *called off* from their work - summoned away.

*To call on or upon* — to solicit; to pay a visit to. ex. (1) Being in distress, he *called on* his brother to help him summoned or invoked. (2) *Call upon* God in the day of trouble - implore the aid of; invoke.

*To call over* — to recite or read aloud. ex. *Call over* the name again - repeat aloud.

*To call out* — to challenge; to speak aloud. ex. Having been insulted by him, I soon *called him out* - challenged him to fight.

*To call together* — to convene. ex. The king, just before the battle, *called together* all his leading generals - convened.

*To call to account* — to summon to render an account; to censure; to demand an explanation from. ex. We are in danger of being *called to account* for this day's uproar - summoned to render an account.

*To be called to the bar* — to be admitted a member of the Honourable Inns of Court; to become a Barrister.

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ex. My friend was *called to the bar* last week - admitted a member, &c

*To call to mind* — to bring to recollection. ex. The sight of inanimate objects often *calls to mind* the face of a friend - revives in the memory.

*To call up* — to bring before ; to bring to recollection. ex. The magistrate ordered the man to be *called up* - brought before him.

*To cast about for* — to search for. ex. When we entered the harbour, the captain began to *cast about for* a safe place to anchor the ship - to search for.

*To cast anchor* — to let fall the anchor. ex. The ship, having entered the harbour, forthwith *cast anchor* - let fall the anchor.

*To cast aside* — to dismiss as useless. ex. I have been obliged to *cast aside* all the timber you supplied - reject as useless.

*To cast away* — to lavish ; to waste. ex. Those who live to no good purpose *cast away* their lives - waste or misspend.

*To be cast away* — to be shipwrecked. ex. We were *cast away* on a barren island - shipwrecked.

*To cast on* — to put or place on. ex. Four more stiches must be *cast on* - put on.

*To be cast down* — to be dejected in mind ; to be in low spirits. ex. Why are you *cast down* ? - dejected ; sad.

*To cast forth* — to emit. ex. The volcano *cast forth* flames - emitted.

- To cast in one's teeth* — to upbraid; to charge. ex. That one act of dishonesty is always *cast in my teeth* - I am always upbraided with.
- To cast in one's lot with* — to share the fortune of. ex. Though a comparative stranger, he *cast in his lot with* us - shared our fortunes.
- To cast lots* — to determine by lot. ex. Let us *cast lots* for the pen-knife we have found - decide by lot whose it shall be.
- To cast off* — to discard. ex. All my friends have *cast me off* - discarded me.
- To cast out* — to reject; to turn out of doors. ex. Prove your multiplication by *casting out nines* - rejecting.
- To cast up* — to reckon. ex. May I trouble you to *cast up* my daily expenses - compute or reckon.
- To catch at* — to attempt to seize suddenly.
- To catch at a straw* — to entertain a vain hope. ex. "A drowning man will *catch at a straw*" - attempt to seize suddenly.
- To catch a train* — to reach a railway station in sufficient time to be able to travel by a certain train. ex. I arrived at the station just in time to *catch the train* - to arrive, &c.
- To catch fire* — to become ignited. ex. The house suddenly *caught fire* - became ignited.
- To catch on* — to understand. (*slang.*) ex. I have explained fully; do you *catch on?* - understand.
- To catch out* — in cricket, to put a batsman "out" by catching the ball he has struck before it reaches the

## 18 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

ground. ex. After making ten runs, he was *caught out* - put out by being "caught."

*To catch up* — to overtake; to snatch. ex. I succeeded in *catching him up* by taking a path across the fields - overtaking.

*To come about* — to happen; to result. ex. How did this *come about*? - happen.

*To come across* — to meet accidentally. ex. I *came across* my teacher this evening - met accidentally.

*To come and go* — to flicker; to change. ex. The colour of the King doth *come and go* (Shakespeare) Have freedom of action.

*To come at* — to obtain; to reach; to get. ex. The grapes hung so high that the fox could not *come at* them - obtain or reach.

*To come by* — to obtain; to gain. ex. Where did you *come by* this? - obtain.

*To come down upon* — to attack. ex. "The Assyrian *came down* like a wolf on the fold" - attacked.

*To come down with* — to pay. A *come-down* - a loss of prestige; a fall. ex. After many excuses and evasions he *came down with* the amount he owed me - paid up. It was a *come-down* for him, who was once a prosperous merchant, to have to accept the post of an ordinary salesman - loss of prestige.

*To come home to* — to touch sensibly. ex. The warning *came home to* every man - was felt by.

*To come in* — to arrive; to become fashionable. ex. Silken garments did not *come in* till lately - become fashionable. The fleet has *come in* - arrived in port.

- To come in for* — to receive as a legacy, etc. ex. Upon his father's death, he *came in* for share of the estate - received, as a legacy.
- To come near* — to approach, ex. As soon as I *came near* the school, I met my class-fellow - approached.
- To come of* — to issue from. ex. Does he *come of* a good family? - spring from. I told you what would *come of* this - result from.
- To come off* — to take place; to escape; to get free. ex. When will the examination *come off*? - take place.
- To come on* — to progress; to advance; to be brought forward. ex. The young trees planted last spring are *coming on* nicely - progressing.
- To come out* — to be discovered. ex. He tried to conceal his fault, but it soon *came out* - was discovered.
- To come out with* — to make public; to give expression to. ex. He sometimes *comes out* with very droll remarks. gives publicity to, or utters.
- To come over* — to win round. ex. A man who changes his party is seldom heartily esteemed by those he *comes over* to - joins by changing sides.
- To come round* — to change. ex. When did the wind *come round*? - change.
- To come short* — to be deficient. ex. We soon *came short* of provisions - were deficient in or failed of.
- To come to a head* — to develop to a critical and culminating point. ex. With his last act of disobedience, matters *came to a head* - came to a critical and culminating point.

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*To come to grief* — to be unsuccessful; to utterly fail.  
ex. The scheme of building a college is likely to  
*come to grief* owing to want of funds - prove a failure.

*To come to one's self* — to recover one's senses. ex. She  
fainted away but *came to herself* in half an-hour -  
recovered consciousness.

*To come to pass* — to be affected; to happen. ex. That  
which he predicted, has *come to pass* - happened. The  
prediction regarding the success of the expedition has  
fully *come to pass* - been accomplished.

*To come to terms* — to accept a compromise; to arrive at  
an agreement. ex. Since I refused to pay Rs. 10,  
he was obliged to *come to terms* and accepted Rs. 7 -  
to accept a compromise.

*To come to the gallows* — to be hanged in the end. ex. After  
a long life of crime, he at last *came to the gallows* -  
was hanged in the end.

*To come up to* — to amount to. ex. My expenses *come up*  
to Rs. 100 a month - amount to.

*To come up* — to make an appearance. ex. The corn that  
was sown has *come up* - appeared above the soil.

*To come up with* — to overtake. ex. He ran so fast that  
I could not *come up with* him - overtake.

*To come upon* — to invade; to discover. ex. How imper-  
ceptibly old age *comes upon* us - invades.

*To cut a figure* — To make a conspicuous appearance. ex.  
She *cuts* an odd *figure* while dancing - looks odd or  
strange.

*To cut a joke* — to be witty and sociable. ex. He loves to *cut jokes* - to be witty and sociable.

*To cut and run* — to run away quickly. ex. I must *cut and run*, whatever happens - run away quickly.

*To cut down* — to fell ; to reduce ; to retrench. ex. Several large trees have been *cut down* - felled. Being in debt, he is obliged to *cut down* his expenses - reduce.

*To cut off* — to separate ; to destroy ; to intercept. ex. The troops were *cut off* from the ship - hindered from returning to. The supplies of the enemy were *cut off* - intercepted. So badly was the soldier wounded that both of his arms had to be *cut off* - amputated or separated from his body.

*To cut one's acquaintance* — to refuse or avoid recognising one. ex. The Johnsons seem to have *cut my acquaintance* - to know me.

*To cut out* — to remove a part ; to shape. ex. The diseased part had to be *cut out* - separated from the rest of the body.

*To cut short* — to abridge ; to hinder from proceeding. ex. I tried to say more, but he *cut me short* - suddenly interrupted me.

*To cut up* — to divide into pieces ; destroyed. ex. They *cut up* the slaughtered animal - divided into pieces. The regiment charged but was *cut up* by the enemy.

*To cut up* — to feel deeply ; to lose many men. ex. The sad news of the death of Kasturi Bai Gandhi has *cut us up* greatly - injured our feelings.

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*To be cut out for* — formed by nature or education to be.  
ex. You seem *cut out* for a schoolmaster - formed by nature or education to be.

### D

*To do away with* — to get rid of; to destroy. ex. He overcame opposition by *doing away with* his enemies - by getting rid of; by killing.

*To do for* — to kill; to ruin. ex. I must *do for* that-dog if it bites me again - kill.

*To do a good turn* — to render a kindness; to do a favour. ex. My friend *did* me a good turn - did me a favour.

*To do to death* — to kill, or murder. ex. By slow torture the unfortunate prisoner was gradually *done to death* - killed; murdered.

*To do without* — to dispense with. ex. Since my friends refuse to help me, I must *do without* their assistance - dispense with.

*To draw a bill upon one* — to instruct one to pay a specified amount. ex. He *drew a bill upon* me (or he *drew upon* me) for Rs. 50.

*To draw a tooth* — to pull it out. ex. I must get me tooth *drawn* - pulled out.

*To draw back* — to withdraw. ex. When he found out the real object of the conspiracy, he *drew back* - withdrew.

*To draw blood* — to cause blood to flow. ex. The blow he gave me was so severe that it *drew blood* - caused blood to flow.

*To draw in*—to inveigle; to contract. ex. Others were *drawn in* to support the measure - decoyed.

*To draw in one's horns*—to retreat; to apologise. ex. When he found I would not be bullied, he *drew in his horns* - retreated.

*To draw nigh*—to approach. ex. *Draw nigh* to God, and He will *draw nigh* to you - approach.

*To draw off*—to extract by distillation. ex. A large quantity of liquor has been *drawn off*—extracted by distillation.

*To draw on*—to advance; to occasion. ex. The day *draws on* when I must fall—advance or approaches.

*To draw down upon*—to cause; to bring about.

*To draw out*—to take out; to range in battle; to protract. ex. All the troops were *drawn out* on the banks of the river—ranged in battle.

*To draw one out*—to persuade one to express his opinion. ex. (1) There are many matters on which I should like to *draw him out*—lead him to express his opinions. (2) She is so reserved that it is difficult to *draw her out*—to get her to talk.

*To draw over*—to induce; to change a party. ex. Many of the enemy have been *drawn over* - induced to change their party.

*To draw up*—to compose; to form in regular order. ex. Let me *draw up* your petition - form in writing or compose.

## F

*To fall away*—to grow lean; to revolt; to apostatize. ex. How much these animals have *fallen away* - lost flesh.

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Many who make a profession of religion, in time of temptation, *fall away* - apostatize.

*To fall back* — to recede ; not to fulfil. The enemy were compelled to *fall back* - recede.

*To fall down* — to sink ; to worship. ex. The overhanging crag *fell down* - came to the ground. All nations shall *fall down* before him - worship.

*To fall foul of* — to come in violent contact with. ex. The English frigate *fell foul of* a German merchantman - struck violently against.

*To fall from* — not to adhere to ; to revolt. ex. Man has *fallen from* his original state of innocence - departed.

*To fall flat* — to cause no amusement or interest ; to fail to interest. ex. His speech *fell flat* - failed to interest.

*To fall in* — to concur ; to yield to. ex. This measure *falls in with* popular opinion - agrees with.

*To fall in with* — to meet accidentally ; to discover. ex. We did not *fall in with* a single vessel during the entire voyage - meet.

*To fall off* — to withdraw ; to perish ; to drop ; to become less interesting or valuable. ex. Friends frequently *fall off* in adversity - withdraw. Many words which were formerly in use have now *fallen off* - gone out of use. Figs readily *fall off* when ripe - drop. Many magazines which begin well, *fall off* gradually-become less interesting and instructive.

*To fall on one's feet* — to come out of a difficult situation unscathed. ex. He lost his own fortune but *fell on his feet*, for just at that time he came in for a legacy of Rs. 5,000 - came out of a difficult situation.

*To fall out* — to quarrel; to happen. ex. Brothers and sisters should never *fall out* - quarrel. How *fell that out*? - how did that happen?

*To fall out of use* — to cease to be used. ex. German-made goods have *fallen out of use* in England — have ceased to be used.

*To fall short* — to be deficient. ex. Which of us is there that does not *fall short* of the requirements to God's law—fail in fulfilling.

*To fall to* — to begin hastily; to apply one's self to. ex. (1) The men being hungry, *fell to* eating the homely food—commenced. (2) The rogue *fell to* raising money under pretence of trying to relieve the poor—applied himself to.

*To fall to the ground* — to fail from lack of support. ex. The proposition *fell to the ground*—failed for lack of support.

*To fall under* — to come within the limits of; to be reckoned with. ex. This case does not *fall under* the jurisdiction of the High Court of these provinces—come under. It is difficult to tell what class some substances *fall under*—are reckoned with.

*To fall upon* — to attack. ex. The tiger, all of a sudden, *fell upon* its prey—attacked.

## G

*To get above* — to surpass; to excel. ex. He has now *got above* his misfortunes—surpassed.

*To get ahead* — to gain strength, force, or influence ex. Close application and perseverance soon enabled the

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student to *get ahead* of his companions—advance beyond.

*To get along* — to advance ; to prosper. ex. The weather being fine and the roads good the travellers were able to *get along* with ease—proceed.

*To get among* — to become one of a number. ex. The poor man was much grieved to find that both of his sons had *got among* young men of intemperate and dissolute habits—had begun to associate with.

*To get at* — to reach ; to make way to. ex. The grapes hung too high for the hungry fox to *get at* them — reach.

*To get away* — to depart ; to disengage one's self from. ex. (1) I fear I shall not be able to *get away* from office in time to attend the wedding — leave. (2) It is not an easy matter to *get away* from bad companions with whom we have long been accustomed to associate — disengage ourselves from.

*To get back* — to return ; to recover. ex. The Viceroy hopes to *get back* to Calcutta early in December — return.  
The patient did not *get back* consciousness for six hours — recover.

*To get before* — to arrive in front. ex. The bay horse soon *got before* the others in the race—arrived in front of.

*To get behind* — to fall in the rear ; to lag. ex. A man *gets behind* in business — lags.

*To get by heart* — to commit to memory. ex. I *get* my lesson *by heart* — commit to memory.

*To get clear* — to disengage one's self from ; to be freed from danger. ex. The captain refused to leave the ship till all the passengers *had got clear* — were freed from danger.

*To get down* — to descend. ex. *Getting down* a tree is sometimes more difficult than ascending it—descending.

*To get drunk* — to become intoxicated. ex. It is no wonder the man has lost his appointment, for he is *always getting drunk* — becoming intoxicated.?

*To get home* — to arrive at one's dwelling. ex. The guests did not *get home* till after midnight — reach home.

*To get in* — to enter. ex. I went to your house last evening but could not *get in*—enter.

*To get loose* — to disengage one's self ; to escape from confinement. ex. During the great Indian Mutiny, a number of prisoners *got loose* — escaped from confinement.

*To get near* — to approach ; within a short distance. ex. Owing to the immense crowd, we could not *get near* the Prince—come within a short distance of.

*To get off* — to escape ; to descend from. ex. The case is so clear that it is not at all likely the prisoner will *get off* — escape punishment.

*To get on* — to proceed ; to advance ; to prosper. ex. Be honest and industrious, and you are to *get on*—prosper.

*To get over* — to surmount ; to conquer. ex. I fear he will not *get over* the fever from which he has been suffering — recover from.

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*To get out of* — to depart; to free one's self. ex. My uncle is still in poor circumstances, not having yet *got out of* debt—freed himself from.

*To get rid of* — to shift off. ex. Since you complain of your horse being vicious, why don't you *get rid of* him—sell or otherwise dispose of.

None but the brave *gain the day*—obtain the victory.

*To get to* — to reach, or to arrive at. ex. I hope *to get to* Lucknow to-morrow—reach, or arrive at.

*To get together* — to convene. ex. In ancient times the barons often *got together* their retainers and fought against the king—convened.

*To get through* — to finish or accomplish. ex. He is so punctual and orderly in his habits that he *gets through* more work than most men in the same office—accomplishes.

*To get up* — to prepare; to print and publish. ex. The book is *got up* in an attractive style—printed.

*To give away* — to alienate from one's self; to transfer; to reveal a secret; to betray. ex. (1) We readily *give away* that which we do not want—part with. (2) When questioned by the lawyer he *gave* the whole plot *away*—reveal. (3) The informer *gave away* his companions—betrayed.

*To give back* — to return; to restore. ex. Why have you not *given me back* the books I lent you?—returned me.

*To give chase* — to pursue. ex. No sooner did the dogs see the fox, than they *gave chase*—pursued it.

*To give forth* — to publish; to tell. ex. The news was soon *given forth* to the world—published.

*To give in to* — to yield; to assent. ex. Will no consideration induce you to *give in to* my proposal?—yield, assent.

*To give off* — to emit; to yield or produce. ex. Sulphur, when burned, *gives off* yellow fumes—emits.

*To give one's self away* — to incriminate or betray one's self by a slip of the tongue. ex. Under cross examination the accused *gave himself away*—betrayed himself.

*To give one's word* — to pledge; to promise. ex. I *give my word* that the debt shall be paid—pledge.

*To give out* — to proclaim; to emit. ex. It was *given out* that Parliament would assemble next January—reported or announced.

An active volcano *gives out* fire, smoke, and lava—emits.

When Alexander was in Babylon, he *gave himself over* to excessive eating and drinking—cease.

*To give over* — to abandon; to addict; to cease. ex. The doctor has *given over* the patient—despaired of the recovery of.

*To give up* — to resign or quit; to surrender; to cease. ex. At the close of the Franco-Prussian war the French *gave up* some of their forts—surrendered.

Why has the clerk *given up* his post?—resigned.

*To give up the ghost* — to die. ex. "Jesus cried with a loud voice, and *gave up the ghost*" (The bible)—died.

*To give way* — to yield; to make room for. ex. Inferiors should *give way* to superiors—yield.

*To give ground* — to yield; to retreat. ex. We charged so fiercely that the enemy had to *give ground*—retreat.

## § 0 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To go about* — to set one's self to ; to attempt. ex. Why don't you *go about* your work at once?—set yourself to.

*To go abroad* — to cross the seas ; to be uttered or published. ex. It has *gone abroad* that the princess is to be married—been published or reported.

*To go against the grain* — to cause vexation or trouble. ex. It *goes against the grain* to confess our faults—causes vexation or trouble.

*To go astray* — to wander ; to sin. ex. No animal is so prone to *go astray* as the sheep—to wander.  
Men *go astray* from their youth—sin.

*To go away* — to depart ; to go to a distance. ex. Is the plague likely to *go away* when the hot season sets in—leave.

*To go by* — to pass near and beyond ; to pass unnoticed ; to act according to. ex. What rules did you *go by* in this matter?—act according to.

*To go down* — to descend ; to come to nothing ; to be received. ex. The doctrine of the divine right of kings will not *go down* with men now-a-days—find favour or acceptance.

*To go for nothing* — to have no value or efficacy. ex. If you do not pay attention, all your teacher's explanation will *go for nothing*—be without effect.

*To go forward* — to advance. ex. The command given to the Israelites, when they reached the river Jordan, was to *go forward*—to advance.

*To go halves* — to share equally. ex. Let us *go halves* in this melon—divide and share equally.

*To go hard with* — to bring danger of a fatal issue to. ex. If you are extravagant now, it may *go hard with* you afterwards—you may have much difficulty.

*To go ill with* — not to prosper. ex. It *went ill with* him after the death of the father—he did not prosper.

*To go in for* — to be in favour of ; to be fond of. ex. Do not *go in for* extravagance—be fond of.

*To go in and out* — to be at liberty ; to do the business of life. ex. From the manner in which he *goes in and out* it seems that he must be a member of the family.

*To go naked* — to wear no clothes. ex. Most savages *go naked*—are in the habit of wearing no clothes.

*To go off* — to depart ; to die ; to explode. ex. The gun *went off* without being touched—became discharged.

Two of the travellers *went off* by the train without paying for their board and lodging—departed.

*To go on* — to advance. ex. My brother asked me to *go on* —to advance.

*To go on a fool's errand* — to undertake a vain or useless task. ex. The book was in his study ; and he sent me *on a fool's errand* to look for it in my rooms—on a vain task.

*To go on all fours* — to correspond exactly in every detail. ex. It is not easy to make a simile *go on all fours*—correspond in every detail.

*To go out* — to issue forth ; to become ; to become public. ex. The light *went out* before the church service was fairly over—became extinguished.

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*To go over* — to read ; to examine ; to change sides. ex. Two of the office clerks will *go over* the accounts with you—examine.

*To go through* — to execute ; to finish ; to bear. ex. People who are punctual usually *go through* more work than those who are not—accomplish.

He *went through* the painful operation very bravely—bore.

The class has *gone through* the greater part of the book—finished.

*To go through fire and water* — to face any risk or in order to accomplish one's purpose. ex. I am prepared to *go through fire and water* in order to save the life of my friend—to face any risk or danger.

*To go to pieces* — to be smashed ; to break up entirely. ex. The vessel struck a rock and *went to pieces*—broke up entirely.

*To go under the name of* — to be known as. ex. Richard I, when passing through Austria, *went under the name of* Hugh the Merchant—was known as.

*To go with* — to accompany ; to side with. ex. The study of Geography should *go with* that of History—accompany.

*To go without* — to be or remain destitute of. ex. The poor shipwrecked mariners *went without* food for four days—remained without.

*To go with child or young* — to become pregnant. ex. She is *gone with child*—has become pregnant.

*To go without saying* — to be a self-evident fact. ex. It *goes without saying*, that the Parsees worship fire—it is a self-evident fact.

## H

*To hold forth* — to reach forth ; to speak in public. ex. —  
He *held forth* on politics for an hour at the meeting last night—spoke.

*Hold forth thy hand*—stretch forth.

*To hold in* — to curb ; to restrain one's self. ex. A hard -  
mouthed horse is not easily *held in*—curbed.

The temptation to laugh was so great, that she could  
scarcely *hold herself in*—restrain herself.

*To hold in play* — to keep in check. ex. I, with two more  
to help me, *will hold the foe in play*—will keep the foe in  
check.

*To hold off* — to keep at a distance. ex. If you love me,  
*hold not off* (Shakespeare)—to keep at a distance.

*To hold one's own* — to maintain one's position in the face of  
opposition. ex. The small garrison bravely *held its own*  
—maintain their position.

*To hold one's tongue* — to keep silence. ex. Please *hold your*  
*tongue* till I have finished speaking — be silent.

*To hold good* — to be valid or firm. ex. This sort of evid-  
ence will not *hold good* in Court of Justice — be valid.

*To hold on* — In continue. ex. He will accomplish the work  
if his strength *holds on* — continues.

*To hold out* — to extend ; to last or continue ; not to rain ;  
to resist. ex. The right hand of fellowship was *held*  
*out* in him by the Church — extended.

This state of things cannot *hold out* much longer —  
continue.

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*To hold together* — to remain in union. ex. A wall of sand will not *hold together* — remain firm.

*To hold over* — to postpone. ex. The final decision is *held over* till next week — postponed.

*To hold up* — to sustain ; to exhibit ; not to rain, ex. *I held up* the wounded man — sustained.

They *hold him up* to ridicule — exhibit.

If the weather *holds up* today, I shall be glad — does not rain.

*To hold water* — to be sound and firm. ex. Your argument does not *hold water* — is not sound.

*To hold with* — to agree with ; to take sides with. ex. *I hold with* him that your action was unwise—agree with.

*To hold down* — to keep in subjection. ex. The conquerors *held* the people *down*—kept in subjection.

## K

*To keep abreast of* — not to fall behind. ex. We must *keep abreast of* the times (fashions)—follow closely.

*To keep back* — to withhold ; to restrain. ex. So indulgent was he to his son that he *kept back* nothing from him— withheld.

*To keep bad hours* — to be habitually late in returning home, or in retiring to bed at night. ex. He *keeps bad hours*—retires to bed at late hours.

*To keep body and soul together* — to earn sufficient to maintain one's self ; to earn enough for even food and clothes. ex. The poor fellow can hardly *keep body and soul together* —earn enough to pay for food and clothes.

*To keep company with* — to associate with. ex. Let youth *keep company with* the wise and good—associate.

*To keep down* — to prevent from rising; to restrain. ex. All vindictive feelings should be *kept down*—repressed.

*To keep from* — to restrain; to refrain. ex. So much did she pity me, that she could not *keep from* crying—refrain from.

*To keep house* — to manage the affairs of the house. ex. As I am a bachelor, my sister *keeps house* for me—looks after the affairs of the house.

*To keep in* — to conceal; to restrain. ex. Idle boys are often *kept in* after school hours—confined.

*To keep in countenance* — to give moral support to. ex. I shall attend to *keep you in countenance*—to give moral support.

*To keep one's bed* — to be confined to one's bed. ex. The magistrate broke his leg by a fall from his horse, and *had to keep his bed* for two months—be confined to his bed.

*To keep off* — to hinder from approach or attack; to avert. ex. Clean and temperate habits will materially help *in keeping off* sickness and diseases—averting.

*To keep on* — to go forward, to continue. ex. She *kept on* contradicting me—continued.

*To keep to* — to adhere strictly to; to observe carefully. ex. Why don't you *keep to* the terms of the agreement—adhere strictly to.

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*To keep to one's self* — to keep secret. ex. He *kept it to himself*—kept it secret.

*To keep under* — to hold in subjection; to suppress. ex. Our animal appetites and passions require to be *kept under*—held in subjection.

*To keep up* — to maintain; not to go to bed. ex. (1) He *kept up* the pretence for years—maintained. (2) We had to *keep up* all night in consequence of our mother's severe illness—remain awake. (3) Traders always try to *keep up* the price of their goods—prevent the price of their goods from falling.

*To keep the wolf from the door* — to ward off starvation; to avoid dying of hunger. ex. "Thousands who have a daily fight to *keep the wolf from the door*"—to avoid starvation.

*To lay about one* — to deal blows vigorously on all sides. ex. Being surrounded, he *laid about him* lustily—struck vigorously on all sides.

*To lay an ambush*—to be concealed with a view to attack an enemy unawares. ex. We *laid an ambush* for them and cut off the whole party concealed ourselves and attacked them unawares.

*To lay an embargo upon* — to forbid (a vessel) to leave port; to forbid the export of. ex. The authorities have *laid an embargo* on the exportation of food-stuffs—forbidden the export of.

*To lay at one's door* — to impute something to one. ex. The guilt was *laid at his door*—imputed to him.

*To lay aside* — to put away ; to discontinue. ex. Two years after the death of her husband, she *laid aside* her widow's dress - put away.

*To lay bare* — to expose completely to view. ex. The stroke of the sword *laid bare* his left shoulder - exposed to view.

*To lay before* — to submit for consideration. ex. A second proposal was *laid before* the committee - submitted for consideration.

*To lay by* — to reserve for future use. ex. Always *lay by* a part of your income - save.

*To lay by the heels* — to render powerless. ex. When a strong man is *laid by the heels*, many rejoice at his defeat - rendered powerless.

*To lay down* — to relinquish ; to surrender. ex. When did the chancellor *lay down* his office ? - relinquish.

*To lay down the law* — to speak with authority and demand obedience. ex. Being in a position of authority, he *laid down the law* to his former friends - spoke with authority.

*To lay hold of* — to seize ; to catch, ex. The policeman soon *laid hold of* the thief - seized.

*To lay in* — to store. ex. The captain was told to *lay in* a large quantity of biscuit - store.

*To lay on* — to strike ; to apply vigorously. ex. Taking up a rod, he caught the boy and *laid on* vigorously - struck him.

### 38 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To lay one's self open to* — to expose one's self to. ex. He *laid himself open to* a charge of theft - exposed himself to.

*To lay open* — to expose; to uncover. ex. So severe was the wound that his thigh bone was *laid open* - exposed.

*To lay out* — to expend; to dress in grave clothes. ex. How much money was *laid out* in the construction of that bridge? - expended. Having heard of his illness, I hastened to visit him but was only in time to see him *laid out* - dressed in his grave clothes.

*To lay to heart* — to permit to affect deeply. ex. Every one should *lay to heart* the truth of human mortality.

*To lay to one's charge* — to attribute an offence to a person, ex. And he (St. Stephen) prayed "Lord, *lay not this sin to their charge*" - attribute this sin to them.

*To lay up* — to store. ex. *Lay not up* treasures upon earth - do not store up.

*To be laid up* — to be sick in bed. ex. She is *laid up* with measles - confined to her bed.

*To lay wait* — to lie in ambush. ex. Robbers often *lay wait* for defenceless travellers - lie in ambush.

*To lay waste* — to desolate; to destroy. ex. One-half of the country was *laid waste* by the war - desolated.

*To lie up* — to keep to one's bed. ex. He was so sick that he had to *lie up* for a week - kept his bed.

*To lie at one's door* — to be directly imputable to one. ex. The fault *lies at your doors* - is attributable to you.

*To lie by* — to remain still; to be on hand. ex. The manuscript has been *lying by* a long time - on hand.

*To lie in wait* — to lie in ambush or concealment. ex. The tiger *lies in wait* for its prey - lies in ambush.

*To lie on hand* — to remain unsold, or unused. ex. These books have been *lying on hand* several months - remained unsold.

*To lie to* — to be stopped during a voyage. ex. Owing to the fog the vessel had to *lie to* - to be stopped.

*To lie down under* — to yield without a struggle. ex. Don't *lie down under* his insults - yield.

*To look about one's self* — to be on one's guard. ex. In times of danger, one must *look about him* ; be on his guard.

*To look after* — to attend to. ex. Will you please *look after* my luggage? - take care of.

*To look blank* — to have a stupid, bewildered appearance. ex. He *looked quite blank* when I asked him to account for the money - had a stupid, bewildered appearance.

*To look daggers* — to express vindictive feelings by the looks. ex. Why did you *look daggers*? - frown.

*To look down upon* — to despise. ex. It is very wrong to *look down upon* the poor - to despise.

*To look for* — to expect; to search for. ex. You have been very idle and must not *look for* a prize - expect.

*To look in the face* — to face or meet with boldness. ex. *Look labour boldly in the face*, - meet with boldness.

*To look into* — to examine. ex. The account requires to be *looked into* - examined.

## 40 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To look on* — to be a mere spectator. ex. Thousands *looked on* while Blondin crossed the Niagara falls on a tight rope - were spectators.

*To look over* — to examine one by one; to excuse. ex. I must *look over* this catalogue of books - examine.

*To look out* — to be on the watch. ex. The seaman *looks out for* breakers - is on the watch.

*To look out for* — to expect. ex. I have been running down the lane and *looking out for* you.

*To look to* — to watch; to take care of. ex. Please *look to* my goods while I am away - take care of.

*To look up* — to investigate. ex. I must *look up* this matter to-day - investigate.

*To look up to* — to respect or esteem. ex. We should always *look up to* those who are older and wiser than we are - esteem.

*To lose ground* — to lose prestige or an advantage. ex. The state and the nation have *lost ground* in the great business of controlling the public charge - lost prestige.

*To lose heart* — to become discouraged; to despair. ex. After his defeat at Waterloo, Napoleon *lost heart* - became discouraged.

*To lose sight of* — See no more; to neglect; ex. We *lost sight of* the water altogether, and saw only the land on each side.

*To lose the day* — to be defeated. ex. The Sikhs *lost the day at* Chillianwala - were defeated.

## M

*To make after* — to pursue. ex. On seeing the hare, the hounds *made after* it - pursued.

*To make a clean breast of* — to make a full confession. ex. *He made a clean breast of* the crime with which he was charged - fully confessed.

*To make a living* — to earn one's livelihood. ex. He *makes his living* by teaching - earns his livelihood.

*To make amends* — to give reparation. ex. You should *make amends* for the wrong you have done him - make reparation.

*To make an example of* — to punish by way of warning. ex. My servants were so given to thieving that I was obliged to *make an example of* two of them - punish by way of warning.

*To make away with* — to destroy; to purloin. ex. The clerk, being suspected of dishonesty, *made away with* the account books - destroyed.

*To make as if* — to pretend. ex. They *made as if* they would go further - carried appearance as though.

*To make bold* — to presume; to use freedom. ex. I *make bold* to warn you to lead a more virtuous life - presume.

*To make bricks without straw* — to attempt to produce a thing without the material necessary. ex. Pharaoh commanded the Israelites to *make bricks without straw*; to make bricks without the necessary materials.

*To make for* — to move forward. ex. The captain apprehended a tempest, and *made for* the harbour - moved towards.

## 42 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To make free with* — to treat without ceremony. ex. Do not *make free with* strangers - treat without ceremony.

*To make good* — to fulfil; to replace. ex. Has he *mads good* his promise? - fulfilled.

*To make headway* — to advance; to progress. ex. The ship could not *make headway* against the storm—advance.

*To make light of* — to despise. ex. Sailors *mks light of* the perils of the sea - despise.

*To make merry* — to partake of an entertainment. ex. The father, on receiving back his son, *mads merry* with his friends - feasted.

*To make much of* — to treat with fondness; to be proud of. ex. A mother always *makes much of* her children - cherishes; is proud of.

*To make of* — to understand. ex. I cannot *makes* anything of this letter - understand.

*To make out* — to understand clearly; to establish by evidence. ex. Can you *make out* the meaning of this passage? - explain. The plaintiff has not been able to *make out* his cause - establish by evidence.

*To make over* — to put into the hands of another. ex. He has *made over* his state to his brother - transferred. The whole of the money was *mads over* to the bank - transferred.

*To make sure* — to secure to one's possession. ex. *Make sure* of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves - retain possession of.

*To make up* — to get together; to collect; to repair. ex. A rupee is wanted to *maks up* the stipulated sum - supply what is wanting of. The broken bridge has recently been *mads up* - repaired.

*To make up one's mind* — to determine. ex. I have *made up my mind* to go to England - resolved.

*To make up a quarrel* — to bring about a reconciliation. ex. Have you *made it up with* the man with whom you quarrelled? - become reconciled to.

*To make up for* — to compensate. ex. He *makes up for* his dulness by his diligence - compensates for.

*To make up to* — to approach; to try to win favour. ex. He *made up to us* boldly, and asked who we were - approached. He always *makes up to* rich people - tries to win their favour.

*To pass away* — to die. ex. He *passed away* at midnight - died.

*To pass by* — to pass close to. ex. The ship *passed by* and was soon lost to view - passed close.

*To pass for* — to be regarded as. ex. He *passes for* a rich man - is regarded as.

*To pass muster* — to bear scrutiny. ex. These goods will not *pass muster* - bear scrutiny.

*To pass one's self off as* — to deceive people into believing one to be. ex. He *passed himself off as* a bishop - deceived people into believing him to be, &c.

*To put away* — to lay aside; to remove; to have done with. ex. These are bad practices which he should *put away* - lay aside.

*To put back* — to delay; to put in the former position. ex. *Put* the books *back* where you found them - replace.

#### 44 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To put down* — to deposit; to repress; to degrade. ex. (1) He *put down* Rs. 3,000 as his share - deposit. (2) *Put* that revolver *down* - i. e., don't use it. (3) Has the rebellion been *put down*? - repressed. (4) Two boys have been *put down* into the fourth class - degraded.

*To put forth* — to propose; to shoot out. This was the suggestion he *put forth* - propose. The trees have begun to *put forth* leaves - shoot out.

*To put in a word for one* — to recommend one; to use one's influence on behalf of another. ex. I hope you will *put in a word for me* - recommend.

*To put in mind* — to remind. ex. You *put me in mind* of your father - remind me.

*To put in practice* — to exercise. ex. You should *put in practice* maxims of the wise - make use of.

*To put off* — to postpone; to push out to sea. ex. The wedding was *put off* - postponed. Has the vessel *put off*? - left the land.

*To put on* — to clothe with; to assume. ex. Why do you *put on* such a grave countenance? - assume. He has *put on* a new suit of clothes - dressed himself in.

*To put out* — to stretch forth; to annoy; to inconvenience; to extinguish. ex. (1) The lamp was *put out* by me - was extinguished. (2) I felt quite *put out* - vexed. (3) The absence of my head-clerk has *put me out* much - inconvenienced me.

*To put to flight* — to cause to run away. ex. The enemy were *put to flight* - caused to run away.

*To put to rights* — to arrange what is in disorder. ex. I shall *put the school to rights* - set up in proper order.

*To put to sea* — to set sail. ex. He *put out to sea* at night in an open boat - set sail.

*To put the saddle on the right horse* — to lay the blame on those who deserve it. ex. Men who are impartial always *put the saddle on the right horse* - impute the blame to the proper person.

*To put to the blush* — to cause to feel ashamed. ex. Nothing will ever *put him to the blush* - cause him to feel ashamed.

*To put to the proof* — to test. ex. His honesty was severely *put to the proof* - tested.

*To put to the sword* — to kill. ex. One-third of the inhabitants were *put on the sword* - killed.

*To put up* — to lodge; to afford lodging to; to offer for sale. ex. (1) Where will you *put up* - take lodgings. (2) Can you *put me up* for two days? - give me lodgings. (3) When will the auctioneer *put up* these things? - offer for the sale.

*To put up to* — to incite or instigate. ex. Who *put him up to* the deed? - instigated him.

*To put up with* — to lodge with; to bear with; to endure. ex. I cannot *put up with* your nonsense any longer - bear with.

## R

*To ride rough-shod over* — to be utterly careless of others' feelings. ex. In his determination to succeed he *rode rough-shod over* every one.

## 46 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

- To ride the high horse* — to boast. ex. Don't believe what he says; he is *riding the high horse*.
- To ride an anchor* — to be anchored. ex. The ship *is riding at anchor* - is anchored.
- To ride for a fall* — to take part in a horse-race and lose intentionally. ex. Jones' horse should have won, but his jockey *rode for a fall* - lost the race intentionally.
- To ride out* — to keep afloat during bad weather. ex. Do you think the vessel can *ride out* the gale? - keep afloat, &c.
- To ride to hounds* — to hunt game with hounds, following them on horse-back. ex. When he was only eight years old, he used to *ride to hounds* - follow hounds on horse back in pursuit of game.
- To ride up Holborn Hill* — a slang term; meaning to go to the gallows (to be hanged). ex. After a life of crime he ended by *riding up Holborn Hill* - being hanged.
- To run after* — to follow; to pursue. ex. The dog *ran after* the kangaroo - pursued.
- To run against* — to run counter to. ex. The steamer, in attempting to pass under the bridge, *ran against* one of the piers - struck.
- To run aground* — to be stranded. ex. The ship *ran aground* near Madras - was stranded.
- To run at* — to attack with sudden violence. ex. No sooner did the bull see us than he *ran at* us - attacked us with sudden violence.
- To run away* — to flee. ex. The foe showed a bold front at first, but afterwards *ran away* - fled.

*To run away with a notion (or idea)* — to conclude hastily.

ex. He was so uncommunicative that I *ran away with the notion* that he was a fool - hastily concluded.

*To run counter to* — to be contrary to ; to be opposed to.

ex. His wishes *run counter to* mine - are opposed to.

*To run down* — to chase to weariness ; to disparage. ex.

The hounds soon *ran down* the stag - chase to weariness.

In his speech the candidate simply *ran* his opponent *down* - disparaged.

*To run high* — to rise high. ex. Party spirit *ran high* - was high.

*To run into debt* — to contract debts. ex. It is the duty of all to avoid *running into debt* - contracting debts.

*To run mad* — to become mad. ex. My favourite dog has *run mad* - become mad.

*To run on* — to be continued. ex. Shall we close your account, or let it *run on* ? - be continued.

*To run over* — to be so full as to overflow ; to notice cursorily. ex. When milk boils, it *runs over* the vessel it is in - over-flows. Just *run over* these accounts and see if they are correct - examine cursorily.

*To run out* — to be at an end. ex. When the lease of this house *runs out*, I shall rent another lease.

*To run riot* — to go to the utmost excess. ex. Drunkenness *runs riot* in the land - goes to great excess.

*To run through* — to squander ; to waste ; to pierce. ex. She has *run through* a very large fortune - squandered.

## 48 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

The chieftain *ran* him *through* with his sword ; pierced him.

*To run up* — to increase ; to erect hastily. ex. Those who buy on credit are apt to *run up* their accounts to a large sum before they are aware of it - increase.

*To set about* — to begin ; to apply one's self to. ex. They have planned the work and will soon *set about* it - commence.

*To set afloat* — to establish. ex. A company was *set afloat* for the purpose - established.

*To set against* — to place in-contrast with ; to make hostile to. ex. *Set against* the magnificence of the building, the furniture was very poor - contrasted with. Why have you *set my friend against me* ? - made hostile to.

*To set a-going* — to cause to begin. ex. Has the engine been *set a-going* ? - put in motion.

*To set apart* — to separate for a particular use ; to dedicate. ex. He was *set apart* to the office of High Priest - consecrated.

*To set aside* — to neglect for the present ; to leave out of the account. ex. The court *set aside* the verdict of the jury - disregarded.

*To set at defiance* — to disregard utterly. ex. Some men *set all laws at defiance* - utterly disregard.

*To set by* — to esteem or value. ex. The chancellor's opinion is much *set by* - valued.

*To set at (or to) work* — to cause to begin work. ex. The men were *set to work* very early - made to begin work.

*To set down* — to make note of; to attribute; to describe in terms of depreciation. ex. Will you please *set down* these particulars? - take a note of. His rude behaviour must be *set down* to ignorance - attributed.

*To set eyes on* — to see; to behold. ex. I have never *set on* him before - seen.

*To set forth* — to represent; to commence a journey. ex. What claims can you *set forth*? - represent.

*To set forward* — to promote further. ex. No sooner did the troops see the enemy than they *set forward* - advanced.

*To set free* — to liberate. ex. Twenty-five of the prisoners have been *set free* - liberated.

*To set in* — to begin; to enter upon a particular state. ex. The cold has fairly *set in* now - commenced.

*To set off* — to adorn; to recommend; to start; to set agoing. ex. They *set off* the worst faces with the best airs - embellished.

*To set off against* — to set off one service against another; to regard as an equivalent. ex. The disadvantages of the scheme may be *set off against* its many benefits - regarded as equivalent, or superior, to.

*To set on* — to instigate; to attack; to fix or place. ex. She was *set on* by her husband to do the deed - instigated.

## 50 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To set on foot* — to put in motion ; to start. ex. A public library has been *set on foot* - started or established.

*To set out* — to start ; to embellish. ex. I shall *set out* for my native village tomorrow - start. She was dressed in a rich habit *set out* with jewels - embellished or adorned.

*To set over* — to appoint as overseer. ex. Whom have you *set over* the work - made overseer of.

*To set right* — to put in order ; to correct. ex. This clock strikes wrong. Will you *set it right* ? - correct it.

*To set sail* — to commence a voyage. ex. As soon as all the passengers were on board, the ship *set sail* - started.

*To set store by* — to esteem highly. ex. Everything from his pen is *set store by* - esteemed highly.

*To set the Thames on fire* — to achieve distinction. ex. If he does not *set the Thames on fire*, he will certainly prosper to some extent.

*To set to* — to apply one's self ; to affix. ex. Let these men *set to* work at once - commence.

*To set up* — to erect ; to place on a firm basis. ex. Statues were *set up* to all who had distinguished themselves - erected.

*To stand aloof* — to remain at a distance, and refuse to take part or render assistance. ex. At the critical moment our allies *stood aloof* - did not render assistance.

*To stand by* — to be present, without being an actor ; to be a spectator ; to defend. ex. She *stood by*, when Richard killed her son - was a spectator. I will *stand by* my

## A DICTIONARY OF IDIOMS AND PHRASES

friend to the last - defend him ; give him countenance and support.

*To stand for* — to represent ; to be a candidate. ex. Two brothers *stood for* the election - were candidates for.  
A pronoun *stand for* a noun - represents.

*To stand off* — to keep at a distance. ex. *Stand off*, and let me take just what I want - keep at a distance.

*To stand in one's shoes* — to occupy the position of another ex. I would not like to *stand in his shoes* today - to be in his position.

*To stand one's ground* — to maintain the position one has taken up. ex. The troops were fiercely assailed but *stood their ground* - maintained their position.

*To stand out* — not to comply ; to refuse to yield. ex. I begged him to write an application for me, but he *stood out* - refused to comply.

*To stand over* — to be postponed. ex. The decision *stands over* for the present - is postponed.

*To stand to* — to abide by ; to adhere to ; to be consistent with. ex. I will *stand to* the resolution I made yesterday - adhere to.

*To stand up* — to rise from a sitting position. ex. As soon as the prince entered the room, the whole assembly *stood up* - rose from their seats.

*To stand up for* — to defend or support. ex. The philanthropist *stand up for* the down-trodden and oppressed. - defends.

*To stand upon* — to pride one's self in. ex. Some men *stand much upon* their birth - are very proud of.

## 52 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To stand to reason* — be reasonable. ex. *It stands to reason* that they be liberally rewarded - it is consistent with.

### T

*To take a newspaper* — to receive it regularly after subscribing to it. ex. Do you *take* the "Hindu"? - subscribe to.

*To take after* — to resemble. ex. Children generally *take after* their parents - resemble.

*To take aim* — to direct the eye or weapon. ex. He *took aim* at a tiger with his gun - directed his eyes.

*To take air* — to become known. ex. How did this matter *take air* so quickly? - become known.

*To take the air* — to walk in the open air. ex. I always *take the air* before breakfast - go for a walk.

*To take away* — to deprive of. ex. The scholarships of two students have been *taken away* from them - withdrawn.

*To take breath* — to refresh one's self. ex. The waggoner let his horse *take breath* before going up the hill - pause and rest for a short time.

*To take care* — to be cautious. ex. *Take care* how you fire the train - be cautious.

*To take care of* — to be solicitous for; to look after. ex. My little girl *takes care of* her baby brother during my absence - looks after.

*To take down* — to humble; to write. ex. Your pride requires to be *taken down* - humbled. The whole of the president's speech has been *taken down* - written.

*To take effect* — to be effective. ex. The poison *took effect* before medical aid could be procured - began to act.

*To take for* — to suppose to be some other person or thing.  
ex. We *took him for* an honest man - supposed him to be.

*To take to heart* — to feel keenly. ex. She *took to heart* the death of her only son - felt very deeply.

*To take ill* — to feel offended ; to become sick. ex. He *takes it ill* that you have not been to see him - feels offended.  
The Chairman *was taken ill* before half the business of the meeting have been gone through - became unwell.

*To take hold of* — to seize. He *took hold of* my hand and shook it warmly.

*To take in* — to defraud ; to receive. ex. I have been *taken in* in the purchase of this horse - tricked ; cheated. Does your teacher *take in* private pupils ? - receive.

*To take in hand* — to undertake. ex. Finish one thing before you *take in hand* another - undertake.

*To take in vain* — to use with levity or profanity. ex. Do not *take* God's name in *vain* - use profanely.

*To take leave of* — to bid farewell to. ex. I must now *take leave of* you - bid you adieu.

*To take notice* — to observe. ex. She heard what was said but *took no notice of* it - did not heed.

*To take off* — to mimic, or make ridiculous ; to amputate. ex. Charlie Chaplin *takes off* people very nicely mimics. The doctor was obliged to *take off* the injured leg - amputate.

## 54 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To take on* — to be violently affected; to undertake. ex. He promised to *take on* the job - undertake. Pray do not *take on* so - be so violently affected.

*To take orders* — to enter the ministry of the Church by being ordained. ex. After leaving the University, he *took orders* - was ordained a minister of the Church.

*To take to a thing* — to apply one's self to; to acquire a liking for. ex. (1) The little girl has *taken to* her step-mother much sooner than we thought she would - got a liking for (2) We cannot get him to *take to* his books - apply himself to.

*To take place* — to occur; to happen. ex. The battle of Waterloo *took place* in 1815. - occurred.

*To take prisoner* — to arrest; to capture. ex. John, King of France, was *taken prisoner* at Poitiers - made a captive.

*To take root* — to become established. ex. Democratic principles have *taken root* in America - become firmly established.

*To take to one's heels* — to run away. ex. The thief *took to his heels* before I could jump out of bed - ran away.

*To take to the road* — to become a highwayman. ex. Finding no honest employment, he *took to the road* - became a highwayman.

*To take the field* — to begin open war. ex. The Russians have *taken the field* against the Germany - begun open war.

- To take up* — to lift; to begin; to engross. ex. (1) *Take* that child *up* in your arms, or it will be hurt - lift or carry. (2) He has only recently *taken up* the study of geology - begun. (3) The supervision of the junior classes *takes up* a great deal of the Principal's time - occupies or engrosses.
- To throw about* — to scatter. ex. He *threw about* his books in the verandah - scattered.
- To throw away* — to lose; to spend in vain. Much time is *thrown away* in frivolous pursuits - wasted. Never *throw away* a good offer - reject.
- To throw back* — to reject; to retort. ex. She *threw him back* a sharp reply - retorted.
- To throw by* — to lay aside as useless. ex. The beggar *threw by* his old clothes on receiving a new suit - laid aside.
- To throw cold water upon* — to discourage. ex. The teacher *threw cold water upon* my suggestion - discouraged.
- To throw down* — to subvert. ex. The fortifications of the city have been *thrown down* - destroyed.
- To throw down the gauntlet* — to challenge or defy. ex. Saying this, he *threw down* the gauntlet - challenged those present.
- To throw dust in the eyes of* — to deceive. ex. It is dishonourable *to throw dust in the eyes* of the ignorant and uneducated - to deceive. The traveller on seeing the bear, *threw himself down*, held his breath, and pretended to be dead - lay down.
- To throw in* — to put in; to give as an extra. ex. He *threw in* an extra mango - gave as an extra.

## 56 PHRASES WITH APPROPRIATE PREPOSITIONS

*To throw in the shade* — to render less pleasing or attractive.  
ex. His singing *throws* yours *in the shade* - renders less pleasing.

*To throw off* — to expel; to reject; to discard. He has *thrown off* all sense of shame, and taken to thieving - discarded.

*To throw one's self on* — to resign one's self to the favour, mercy, or sustaining power of another. ex. On being convicted of treason, he *threw himself on the King's* mercy, and sought his pardon - resigned himself to the king's mercy.

*To throw out* — to eject; to utter carelessly or insidiously  
ex. The bill was *thrown out* on the second reading rejected.

*To throw up* — to resign angrily; to vomit. ex. The dose of emetic soon caused the patient *to throw up* - vomit. On being reprimanded for his indolence, he *threw up* his appointment - angrily resigned.

*To turn about* — to move the face to another quarter. ex. The crowd was so great that we could scarcely *turn about* - move our faces to another quarter.

*To turn a penny* — to gain money by trade. ex. No honest means of *turning a penny* should be despised - earning money.

*To turn aside* — to avert; to deviate from a course. ex. Can nothing be done to *turn aside* his wrath? - avert.

*To turn away* — to dismiss from service; to discard; to forsake. ex. Several railway employees have recently been *turned away* - dismissed.

*To turn back* — to make to go back. ex. He met the man at the gate and *turned him back* - made to go back.

*To turn down* — to fold or double down. ex. Open the book at the passage where the leaf has been *turned down*, doubled or folded down.

*To turn in* — to go to bed or retire. ex. I *turn in* at ten, o'clock every night - go to bed.

*To turn off* — to dismiss contemptuously; to divert. ex. The king soon *turned off* the sycophants who used to frequent his court - dismissed contemptuously. Worldly pleasures *turn* the mind *off* from serious objects - divert.

*To turn upon* — To retort; to throw back. ex. He *turned* the arguments of his opponent *upon* himself.

*To turn one's stomach* — to make sick. ex. The sight of the putrefying carcass *return my stomach* - made me feel sick.

*To turn out* — to expel; to prove the issue or result. ex. The cruel landlord *turned out* the whole family - expelled. Have the horses been *turned out* yet? - put to pasture.

*To turn over* — to change the sides, or the position of the surface of. ex. The boat was *turned over* by a storm - upset.

*To turn over a new leaf* — to begin a new or fresh course of life. ex. Many an erring man has, by kind treatment, been enabled to *turn over a new leaf* - reform.

*To turn one's back* — to flee, ex. The enemy were soon seen to *turn their backs* - flee.

*To turn one's back upon* — to leave with contempt. ex. Never *turn your back on* your old friends - leave with contempt,

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*To turn tail* — to retreat ignominiously, ex. I thought he would stand-by me all through this business, but he *turned tail* and left me - ran away.

*To turn the corner* — to pass through the crisis of an illness  
His condition was very serious, but he has now *turned the corner* - passed through the critical period of his illness.

*To turn the head* — to make giddy ; to make conceited. ex. His success in the examination has *turned his head* - made him conceited.

*To turn turtle* — to capsize. ex. The ship suddenly *turned turtle* - capsized.

*To turn up* — to happen. ex. We know not what may *turn up* to-morrow - happen.

*To turn up one's nose at* — to despise. ex. He *turned up his nose at* the offer - despised.

*To turn upon* — to depend upon. ex. His whole case *turned upon* the validity of a single document - depended upon.

*To turn the scale* — to cause to preponderate. ex. You weigh equally, a feather *will turn the scale* - cause to preponderate.

*To turn the tables* — to reverse success or superiority. ex. The case seemed to be going against Krishna till Rama came and his evidence quite *turned the tables* in Krishna's favour - reversed success.

## U

*Uncared for* — ex. (1) Children should not be left *uncared for* (2) Poor boys in rags, quite neglected and *uncared for* appealed to him for help.

*Uncalled for* — not needed; ex. His interference was *uncalled for*.

*Upbraid* (reproach severely) *with*; He *upbraided* me *with* my ingratitude.

*Unworthy of* — ex. Such behaviour is *unworthy of* a man of position.

*Useful to, for* — ex. I could do nothing *useful for* any of them. The cow is *useful to* us.

*Vain of* — ex. He was not *vain of* what he had done.

*Value at, on* — ex. Do not set much *value on* your possessions. A watch, *valued at* Rs. 16, was stolen by him.

*Vary from* — ex. Customs *vary from* one age to another till they are entirely changed.

*Vary in* — ex. He *varies in* his opinions.

*Vary with* — ex. His opinions *vary with* the times. The style of English writers has *varied with* the language.

*Venture on* — ex. It is rash to *venture on* such a project. He *ventured* all his property *on* this risk.

*Venture into* — ex. He never *ventured into* the water.

*Vest with* — ex. He is *vested with* the powers of a Magistrate of the 2nd class.

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*Vest in* — ex. The supreme executive power in England is *vested in* the king.

*Vexed by* — ex. We were *vexed by* his rudeness to him.

*Vexed at* a thing. ex. He was *vexed at* my folly.

*Vexed with* — ex. Don't be *vexed with* me.

*Victims of, to.*—ex. We may even become the *victims of* petty miseries by giving way to them. Cæsar fell a *victim to* his own ambition. Pericles fell a *victim to* the plague. Many persons are daily falling *victims to* cholera.

*Vie with* — ex. Few countries can *vie with* Austria in mineral wealth.

*Void of* — destitute of; ex. As he is *void of* common sense; he is *void of* brains (intelligence).

*Vouch for* — to bear witness to; ex. I cannot *vouch for* the truth of the report; I will *vouch for* the truth of that statement.

## .W

*Watch for, over.* ex. He is *watching for* an opportunity to injure me. It is our duty to *watch* constantly *over* our conduct and that of our children.

*Wanting in* — deficient in; ex. I humbly beg your pardon, if I have been *wanting in* due respect; he is *wanting in* manners; he is *wanting in* energy or diligence; I shall not be *wanting in* exertion.

*Wait on, upon* — to visit on business ; ex. Tell the gentleman I will *wait on* him at nine o'clock. To perform some service ; ex. My servant *waits on* the patient. I *wait upon* your pleasure - I am ready to do whatever you wish.

*Wait for* — to stay or rest till the arrival of some person or event ; ex. I waited an hour *for* him ; I will *wait for* the mail ; time and tide *wait for* no man ; I *wait for* a reply - I await a reply.

*Warn one of one's danger* — ex. A teacher should *warn* his pupils of the danger of bad company.

*Warn one against doing a thing.* — ex. The teacher *warned* his pupils *against* keeping bad company.

*Wish, v.t.* — ex. I *wish* you success in life. I *wish* you joy and happiness. I *wish* you peace and health.

*Wish for* — ex. I *wish for* a transfer. I *wish for* success.

*Wrong of, in, to* — ex. It was *wrong of* you to say so. You were *wrong in* saying so. You were *wrong to* say so.

## Y

*To yield up* — to give up ; to surrender. ex. He recognized the justice of my claim, and *yielded up* the land to me.

*To yield to* — to comply with ; to give way. ex. Never *yield to* temptations.

## Z

*Zeal for* — Passionate ardour in the pursuit of (anything) eagerness in favour of, or for the advancement : *e.g.* A *zeal for* — liberty is sometimes an eagerness to subvert, with little care, what shall be established.

— JOHNSON.

## Part II

### Idiomatic Phrases.

*Abandon one to one's fate* — Give up one to one's fate, *i.e.* leave one without help : *e.g.* Many a poor wretch *was abandoned to his own fate*, to die alone in the wilderness or to be devoured by wild animals—PRESCOTT.

*Abandoned to* — Wholly left to : *e.g.* He was lying there, *abandoned to his fate*. Given up to : *e.g.* The house seemed *abandoned to merriment*.

*Above one's breath* — So loudly that the voice may drown the sound of breath : *e.g.* She did not raise her voice *above her breath*—DICKENS.

*Absence of mind* — Inattention to things present, or what is going on : *e.g.* "His *absence of mind* struck his friends.

*Absorbed in grief* — Filled with grief : *e.g.* He sat in the chair *absorbed in grief*.

*Add fuel to the fire* — to increase the existing excitement or anger : *e.g.* The shooting of the working-men's candidate for mayor, only *added fuel to the fire*.

*A day after the fair* — Too late : *e.g.* He came here *a day after the fair* and was sorely disappointed.

*At the eleventh hour* — near the close of any period or opportunity ; very late : *e.g.* If, even *at the eleventh hour*, Charles had acted fairly, they would have given him a fair chance.

- At the heels of* — pursuing closely : *e.g.* When he came Rama was *at his heels*.
- At the end one's rope or tether* — without resources, unable to do anything further : *e.g.* His business bade fair to be a success, but for want of capital he was soon *at the end of his rope*.
- At the point of the sword* — by military force ; under compulsion : *e.g.* It is said that the British took possession of India *at the point of the sword*.
- At the top of one's voice* — as loudly as possible : *e.g.* When the house caught fire, the inmates cried "Fire" *at the top of their voices*.
- A few* — Some ; small in number : *e.g.* I gave the beggar *a few* pice.
- As good as* — virtually ; not less than : *e.g.* You are *as good as* a scoundrel.
- As good as one's word* — true to one's promise : *e.g.* You will find the gentleman *as good as his word*.
- Not at home* — not disengaged or prepared for the reception or visitors. *e.g.* I came to your house this morning, but your servant told me you were *not at home*.
- At all events* — certainly, whatever happens, in any case : *e.g.* I will *at all events* pay you a flying visit in the course of the
- At any rate* — at all events : *e.g.* The man was stupid and heavy ; *at any rate*, he seemed so to me.
- To have advantage of over* — to have knowledge not possessed by another : *e.g.* You *have the advantage of* me. I do not remember you.

*To take advantage of* — to use as a means to an end : *e.g.*  
The general took *advantage of* his enemy's negligence.

*To give oneself airs - To put on airs*—to have affected manners :  
*e.g.* He *gives himself* such mighty *airs*, one might think  
he was a Nabob.

## B

*Bag and baggage* — all one's goods, everything belonging  
to a person ; *e.g.* Get away with all your *bag and baggage*.

*To tremble in the balance* — to be in a state of uncertainty as  
to what the result may be ; *e.g.* For the first and last  
time during this great struggle, the destinies of the  
English in India began *to tremble in the balance*.

*Into the bargain* — in addition thereto : *e.g.* She lost a thou-  
sand rupees and her bridegroom *into the bargain*.

*To make the best of a bad bargain* — to bear an unfavourable;  
circumstance with patience : *e.g.* You must submit to  
the calamity and *make the best of a bad bargain*.

*To beat about the bush* — to approach a matter cautiously and  
indirectly, as in conversation or investigation : *e.g.*  
The detective *beat about a bush* in order to ascertain the  
sentiments of the accused.

*To beg the question* — to take for granted, to assume in an  
argument as proved what the disputant sets out to  
prove : *e.g.* Now you are attempting to accept as  
proved the point in dispute ; you are *begging the ques-  
tion*.

*To beggar description* — To exhaust the power of description:  
*e.g.* The joy that he felt at the prospect of getting  
the situation *beggars description*.

*Beside oneself with* — completely out of one's senses: e.g.  
 'The king was so unquiet and passionate that he seemed like a man *beside himself*.'

*Beside the question* — not pertaining the question - e.g. 'What has been submitted by this man is *beside the question* under consideration.'

*Birds of the same feather* — persons of like character: e.g.  
 'They belong to the same club and may well be called *birds of the same feather*.'

*To burn the candle at both ends* — To squander in two ways; to be doubly extravagant e.g. (1) By idleness and extravagance he *burns the candle at both ends*. (2) By working hard and living poorly, he is *burning the candle of life at both ends*.

*Born with a silver spoon in the mouth* — very lucky from the time of birth: e.g. 'My friend was born *with a silver spoon in the mouth*.'

*To make a clean breast of* — to make a full and free confession of something which has been kept a secret: e.g.  
 'She resolved to *make a clean breast of* it before she died.'

*Bird's-eye view* — (1) Seen from above, as by a flying bird.  
 (2) General; not entering into details. e.g. (1) From the Aeroplane we obtain a *bird's-eye view* of the city (2) 'The writer gave a *birds-eye view* of the journey.'

*Breath one's last* — Die. e.g. He *breath his last* on 3rd December.

*Beat black and blue* — Giving a good thrashing. e.g. The thief was *beaten black and blue* by the watchman.

*A bone of contention* — A subject of contention or dispute. e.g. The boundary line between those two neighbours has been a *bone of contention* for sometime.

*Blood is thicker than water* — Kinship will cause a man to be-friend his relatives. *e.g.* After all, *blood is thicker than water*, and he selected his brother-in-law for the post.

*To call one names* — to call one by reproachful appellations: *e.g.* He called his mother names because she would not give up her property.

*To carry matters with a high hand* — to be arrogant or tyrannical: *e.g.* 'Barbarian conquerors have been apt to carry matters with a high hand.'

*To carry the day* — to win the battle, to be successful in a contest or dispute: *e.g.* The conservatives carried the day in the last election.

*To cast forth* — to emit: *e.g.* 'The volcano cast forth flames.'

*To change colour* — to blush, to show fear or shame: *e.g.* 'He changed colour at the mention of it.'

*The coast is clear* — The enemies have left the coast, the danger is over; *e.g.* 'He escaped into a cave high up among the crags, where he lay concealed till the coast was clear.'

*Cut and dry* — already prepared *e.g.* 'He brought his proposals with him cut and dry.'

*Out one's coat according to one's cloth* — keep one's expenses within one's means: *e.g.* 'Alas, that mortals do not know themselves and will not cut their coat according to their cloth.'

*A short cut* — easy way of getting at something : *e.g.* ‘They made for his house by *a short cut* and were there before him.’

*To cut to the quick* — to wound one’s sensibilities deeply : *e.g.* ‘Innocent as the young man was, every artful insinuation stung. every well-considered sarcasm *cut him to the quick.*’

*Castles in the air* — Visionary projects ; schemes that have no solid foundation. *e.g.* It is the habit of some young persons to build *castles in the air*.

*Chip of the old block* (colloquial) — A son having the characteristics of his father. *e.g.* I saw the artist’s little boy sketching the cat, he is a *chip of the old block*).

*Confusion worse confounded* — Confusion increased. *e.g.* ‘With ruin upon ruin, rout on rout, *confusion worse confounded*’ (Milton)

*Count one chickens before they are hatched* — (colloquial) Depend not, on anything before it actually comes into your possession.

## D

*His days are numbered* — he has only a short time to live : *e.g.* She was sickening of the dropsy and *her days in the world she well knew were numbered*.

*To do justice to* — (1) to give credit to one’s deserts, (2) to eat with an appreciative appetite : (1) You do not *do him justice* in what you say about him (2) The young men *did ample justice to* the dinner prepared for them.

*To lead the life of a dog* — to live a wretched life: *e.g.* I am afraid I *led* that boy *a dog's life*.

*To lay at one's door* — to charge one with: *e.g.* A great many faults may be *laid at their door*, but they are not fairly to be charged with fickleness.

*Double dealing* — professing one thing and doing another, inconsistent with such profession, duplicity: *e.g.* She was quite above all *double dealing*.

*The benefit of a doubt* — the benefit to which a guilty person is entitled when there is any doubt as to the circumstances of his offence: *e.g.* If therefore there is doubt affecting his case, he is entitled to *the benefit of the doubt*.

*To throw dust in a man's eyes* — to try to deceive one, to deceive one: *e.g.* He cared to say no more, he had *thrown dust* enough in honest Adam's eyes.

*Day after day* — one day after another; each day in succession. *e.g.* *Day after day*, the caravan of pilgrims, wearily trod the sands of the desert.

*Death-blow* — A blow causing death; total extinction. *e.g.* His only son's death was a *death-blow* to all his ambition.

*To deprive of* — To bereave of; to take away. *e.g.* He was *deprived of* the privilege of attending the lecture, by illness.

*Dead silence* — A complete or utter silence. *e.g.* A *dead silence* ensued when the speaker of the house rose up.

*Dispose of* — (1) To sell, (2) To use or employ, (3) To place in any condition, (4) to give in marriage to.

*e.g.* (1) He has *disposed of* his house (2) He does not know how to *dispose of* his time (3) How will you *dispose of* your son? (4) He has *disposed of* his daughter to a man of great worth.

*Dispense with* — Give up: do without. *e.g.* (1) His services are *dispensed with* (2) Reasonable notice should be given to an officer in permanent employ before his services are *dispensed with*.

*Displeased at* — Offended or vexed at (something). *e.g.* Why should you be *displeased at* the work of the servants.

## E

*To give ear to* — to listen, *e.g.* I shall be glad to *give ear to* whatever you may have to say.

*To turn a deaf ear* — to refuse to listen: *e.g.* To these appeals the king *turned a deaf ear*.

*To set by the ears* — to cause a quarrel: *e.g.* I little thought when I ran in with the good news that it would have the effect of *setting us all by the ears*.

*To poison one's ears* — to tell one something that is prejudicial to another: *e.g.* You must not try to *poison against* me the ears of my friends in my absence.

*Eke out, to* — To add or supply what is deficient or scanty; to prolong. *e.g.* He *ekes out* his salary with the income received from literary work.

*To see eye to eye* — To have the same opinions on any subject. *e.g.* I am sorry we could not *see eye to eye* on this question.

*To eat one's words* — To take back what one has said ; to retract one's assertions. *e.g.* I made him *eat his words*, concerning my receiving a *bribe* while I was in office

*To be entangled with* — To be so involved as to render extrication difficult. *e.g.* The private business of the cashier is sadly *entangled with* the business of the bank.

*Expectation of life* — The mean or average duration of the life of individuals after any specified age. *e.g.* Life insurance companies base their premium rates upon tables giving the *expectation of life*.

*Exposed to view* — Laid upon to public inspection ; plainly visible. *e.g.* (1) In the light of the congressional report, the hidden speculations were *exposed to view*, (2) By the washing away of the sand on the beach, a large rock is *exposed to view*.

*Every now and then* — Repeatedly ; at short intervals ; often ; frequently. *ex.* (1) Last night, *every now and then* his baby cried out in his sleep. (2) He was restless ; and *every now and then* muttered something in his sleep.

*In the face of* — in the presence of ; in spite of : *e.g.* *In the face of* the strongest evidence he held an opinion to the contrary.

*To fly in the face of* — to set at defiance, to act in direct opposition to : *e.g.* She would ruin herself if she *flies in the face of commonsense*.

*In good faith* — bonafide ; in the honest belief that there is no fraud, deceit or impropriety : *e.g.* He is not to blame, for he committed the act *in good faith*.

*To be in the family way* — to be pregnant : *e.g.* She is in the family way, though very young.

*To make a fool of one* — to cause one to appear ridiculous; to deceive one : *e.g.* Vanity makes a fool of the wisest.

*To take French leave* — to be absent without permission, to slip away unnoticed : *e.g.* This being a bright sunny day the boy has taken French leave.

*To flatter one's self* — To feel assured ; to presume to think...  
*e.g.* (1) I flatter myself, I can do it (2) Don't flatter yourself that you can do it so easily. (3) He flatters himself every body when admires him (4) I hardly flatter myself, that the editor will insert the poem I have written for his magazine.

*For good, for good and all* — As a finality ; permanently.  
*e.g.* (1) Mr. Doss informs me that he has come to the city for good. (2) I am coming back next week for good. (3) He gave up using opium for good and all.

*From the bottom of one's heart* — Heartily ; sincerely. *e.g.* I wish you success in business from the bottom of my heart.

*For the sake of* — out of regard to ; on account of. *e.g.* For God's sake, hear me ; we should pursue knowledge for the sake of knowledge itself ; I am prepared to do anything for your sake.

*To give a false colouring* — To misrepresent ; to make to appear different from what it is. *e.g.* The agent gave a false colouring to the whole affair.

## IDIOMATIC PHRASES

*To go ahead to* — To proceed ; to advance. *e.g.* *Go ahead* with your plan for making sugar from cornstalks, and see how you will succeed.

*To go to the dogs* — To be ruined ; to be destroyed. *e.g.* The extravagant and dissipated banker has *gone to the dogs*.

*To go out of one's way* — To deviate from the common or direct course. *eg.* Gopal never *goes out of his way* to pay his compliments to any and every superior officer.

*To grapple with* — Enter into contest with. *e.g.* If you *grapple with* your difficulties manfully you are sure to overcome them.

*Golden opportunity* — Highly favourable chance. *e.g.* Mr. James had a *golden opportunity* before him of making a name for himself.

*Guess at* — Make a guess or random judgment of; conjecture. *e.g.* If you meet with a word you do not know, never *guess at* it but spell it first.

*Guilty of* — criminal and deserving of (some punishment) *e.g.* The prisoner is *guilty of* murder.

*To go without saying* — To be known without saying it ; it is not necessary to say. *ex.* It *goes without saying*, that the better the protection against fires, the lower will be the rates of insurance.

*To live from hand to mouth* — to live without any provision for the morrow ; to spend every day what is earned : *e.g.* The general mass of the inhabitants of Korea *live from hand to mouth*.

*To be hand and glove* — to be on very intimate terms ; to be familiar with one : *e.g.* We were *hand and glove* with each other.

*Hard up* — short of money ; greatly pressed by want or necessity : *e.g.* I am infernally *hard up* for a little ready money just at the present moment.

*To harp on the same string* — to dwell on the same subject with wearisome persistence : *e.g.* The critic is of opinion that the writer *harps* too much *upon one string*.

*Hole and corner* — underhand ; secret : *e.g.* No one could say that it was a *hole and corner* business, for less that the Assembly was packed.

*At home* — familiar, on easy terms : *e.g.* His kind words made me feel *at home* at once with him.

*To bring home* — to convict one of, to prove a charge against one : *e.g.* It was easy *to bring* the guilt *home* to the offenders.

*To hold one's peace* — To be silent ; to repress one's thoughts ; not to speak. *e.g.* (1) The mother told the child who was incessantly taking, *to hold her peace* (2) I cannot *hold my peace* longer.

*To have one's eye open* — To be vigilant ; observing. *e.g.* A person who travels need *to have his eyes open*, to avoid danger and imposition.

*To have two strings to one bow* — To have two expedients for executing a project, or gaining a purpose. *e.g.* If the jeweller does not have work in his shop, he can teach music ; he *has* therefore *two strings to one bow*.

*To hold water* — Not to leak ; to be valid or sound. *e.g.* (1) The cup *holds water* (2) That argument will not *hold water*.

## I

*The ins and outs of anything* — the nooks and corners of anything; the details of anything: *e.g.* I don't much mind talking those things over with you, for you know all the *ins and outs of the* whole affair.

*If the worst comes to the worst* — If the worst or most undesirable condition of things arises. *e.g.* *If the worst comes to the worst*, the man will sell his house, and go with his family to his village.

*Impregnated with* — Infused with; imbued with. *e.g.* The water of some springs is strongly *impregnated with* iron.

*In a marked degree* — Very exceedingly; very much. *e.g.* This book is, *in a marked degree*, better than the other.

*In black and white* — In writing or print. *e.g.* I must have that statement of the company's financial condition *in black and white*.

*In cold blood* — Deliberately; without sudden passion; without compunctions. *e.g.* (1) He killed that man *in cold blood* (2) No one could do it *in cold blood*.

*In every quarter, in all quarters* — Everywhere; in all countries. *e.g.* Agriculture is practiced *in all quarters*.

*In a melting mood* — Softened; susceptible to mild influences *e.g.* At the close of his address, and while the audience was *in a melting mood*, the speaker proposed that collection be taken for the poor, whose cause he had advocated.

*Jail-bird* — A person who was often convicted and jailed  
e.g. (1) He is an old *jail-bird* (2) The gang of burglars  
is probably composed of *jail-birds*.

*To Jabber* — To talk rapidly, or indistinctly; to chatter  
e.g. The girls are *jabbering* all the time, while at their  
work.

*Just now* — At the present time; a moment ago. e.g. (1)  
I should be glad to lend you the money you wish, but  
*just now* I have none at command. (2) I do not know  
where the servant is; he was here *just now*.

*Just so* — In that manner; exactly thus. e.g. As the mother  
bird flies and builds her nest, *just so* the young bird  
does.

*Just in time* — Exactly at the right moment. e.g. She was  
*just in time* to catch the train.

*Jump to a conclusion* — To infer hastily, without investiga-  
tion or proof: e.g. Observing Mr. A's stores closed one  
day, some of his neighbours *jumped to a conclusion*, that  
he had failed.

## K

*To know on which side one's bread is buttered* — To understand  
what is for one's own interest. e.g. This servant is  
very careful to please his master; he *knows on which side*  
*his bread is buttered*.

*To keep an eye* — Observe closely, watch. e.g. It is well to  
*keep an eye*, the opportunities for business.

*To kill two birds with one stone* — To accomplish two objects at the same time or by one effort. *e.g.* When I went to Madura I *killed two birds with one stone*; I transacted my business, and also visited my friends.

*Kith and kin* — Friends and relatives; acquaintance and kinsman. *e.g.* All his *kith and kin* came and witnessed his wedding.

*Keeps one's head above water* — Avoid being overwhelmed by debt. *e.g.* The secret of those worthy people *keeping their heads above water*, was that their ordinary habits were frugal.

*Keep body and soul together* — Keep alive; sustain life; keep from starving. *e.g.* Her child hardly eats as much as would *keep the body and soul together*.

*To kick up a dust* — To make a fuss; to make a bustle or ado. *e.g.* (1) You need not *kick up* such a *dust* over the new bill, (2) The boy was expelled from school for bad conduct; and the parents *kicked up* quite a *dust* about it.

*Knock-down argument* — An overpowering, unanswerable argument. *e.g.* He won that case, because his lawyer made a *knock-down argument*.

*To know one's own mind* — To be decided and positive in character; not to be irresolute and wavering. *e.g.* Mr. A. never *knows his own mind* in regard to any matter.

## L

*Labour of love* — work undertaken for the love of the thing without regard to pay : *e.g.* Howard was once more abroad pursuing his *labour of love* on the borders of the Black Sea.

*At large* — generally : *e.g.* Their (the English people's) interests *at large* are protected by their votes.

*A gentleman at large* — a person without any serious occupation : *e.g.* He was now a *gentleman at large*, living as best he might, no one knew how.

*To laugh to scorn* — to ridicule : to sneer : *e.g.* He *laughed* the doctrine *to scorn*.

*Laughing-stock* — an object of ridicule : *e.g.* By such behaviour you will make yourself the *laughing-stock* of the public.

*To lead a cat-and-dog life* — to be always quarrelling with one's family members ; to live together inharmoniously : *e.g.* He and his wife *led a cat-and dog life* for several years before their divorce.

*To make light of* — to treat anything as of little or no importance ; to show indifference : *e.g.* I am not one of those who *make light of* political offences.

*To bring to light* — to disclose, to reveal : *e.g.* The letters were intercepted and a formidable plot was *brought to light*.

*To be at a loss* — to be unable to decide ; to be puzzled : *e.g.* Jayamani herself *was quite at a loss* to think who could possibly have ordered the piano.

*To lock the stable door after the horse is stolen* (Colloquia) Adopt precautionary measures when it was too late

*e.g.* The man who banished wine from his dinner table after his son had become a drunkard, *locked the stable door after the horse was stolen.*

*Lend an ear, to* — To listen; to hear attentively. *e.g.* The rich should *lend an ear* to the complaints of the poor.

*Leaps and bounds, by* — With extraordinary and unexpected rapidity. *e.g.* (1) The price of food-stuffs has, in the course of these few years, increased *by leaps and bounds.* (2) The figures show that the famine is advancing *by leaps and bounds.*

## M

*To make a clean breast of* — to make a full confession: *e.g.* He *made a clean breast of* the crime with which he was charged.

*Man of letters* — literary man, learned man, author: *e.g.* The one was a rude soldier, the other a *man of letters.*

*A man of his word* — a man who acts up to his promise: *e.g.* I *am a man of my word* and will do what I have said.

*Man of talent* — A man endowed with extraordinary intellectual capacity; a talented person. *e.g.* Like many other *men of talents*, fielding was unfortunate.

*Matter of courtesy* — That which is courteous; what pertains to good breeding. *e.g.* (1) It is a *matter of courtesy* at table, to serve the ladies before the gentlemen are helped. (2) As a *matter of courtesy* he handed his guest the 'Hindu' paper before reading it himself.

*Matter of life and death* — A matter involving the risk of the loss of life ; a very serious matter. e.g. Landing from the plane with the help of a parachute is a *matter of life and death*.

*To make a mountain of a mole-hill* — To magnify trifles ; to exaggerate difficulties or obstacles. e.g. The father said to his son, ' Do not *make mountains of mole-hills* ; and your life will be much happier.

*Beside the mark* — Not to the point. e.g. That observation was quite *beside the mark*.

*Under the mark* — Inferior. e.g. The essay that she sent in was quite *under the mark*.

*Up to mark* — Coming up to the required standard. e.g. Her knowledge of mathematics is not quite *up to the mark*.

*Make both ends meet, to* — To cause one's receipts to equal his expenses ; to make expenses come within one's income. e.g. Since price has advanced, we cannot *make both ends meet*.

*Make one's blood boil, to* — To arouse one's indignation ; to provoke one. e.g. It *makes one's blood boil*, to read of the cruelties and damages caused on English troops by the Japanese.

*Make one's self scarce, to* — To be off ; to decamp ; to clear out ; to absent one's self. e.g. (1) The thief *made him self scarce*, when he saw the policeman coming (2) You are not wanted here, and I wish you to *make yourself scarce*.

## N

*Neither fish, flesh, nor fowl* — Peculiar; indefinite. *e.g.* He is *neither fish, flesh, nor fowl* — He is a peculiar person, not like other people in any respect.

*Nick of time* — At the right moment. *e.g.* Your letter was received just *in the nick of time*.

*Not a bit or whit* — Not in the least; not in the smallest degree; not any. *c.g.* (1) The board is *not a bit* longer than the other, (2) His health is *not a whit* better for the journey.

*Not to mention* — Leaving unmentioned; not speaking of. *e.g.* That teacher has a superior faculty of instructing youth, *not to mention* his fine scholarship.

*Neither here nor there* — Unimportant; irrelevant. *e.g.* (1) That remark is *neither here nor there*, (2) The man's speech on the currency was *neither here nor there*—(i.e. The man's speech on the currency was irrelevant and without point.

*Now and then* — At intervals; occasionally. *e.g.* During the summer, we have a thunder-storm *now and then*.

*Naked eye* — The eye alone without the aid of glasses, etc. *e.g.* The telescope reveals very many stars which are not visible to *naked eye*.

*Null and void, to be* — To have no legal value. *e.g.* The contract was *null and void*, because it was not signed.

*Near one's end* — Near death. *c.g.* The doctor says that the patient is *near his ends*.

*Now or never* — The present is the only time of opportunity ex. The situation was extremely critical and *now or never* was the moment to make that declaration.'— THACKERAY.

## O

*Odds and ends* — Remnants; fragments; refuse. *e.g.* The tailor made a suit for the newsboy, out of the *odds and ends* of cloth.

*On a large scale* — In large degree or measure, compared with other like things. *e.g.* Mr. Wilson owns two paper mills which make several tons of paper daily; he is doing business *on large scale*.

*Well off* — In comfortable circumstances; in a prosperous state: *e.g.* He seemed to be as *well off* as he was before.

*Off and on* — (1) at intervals now and then. (2) sometimes working, sometimes doing nothing. *e.g.* (1) They *off and on* fell out like the heroes of some old epic: (2) It took me two months *off and on* to write that poem.

*Off hand* — Without preparation; immediately: *e.g.* She plays any tune *off hand*.

*On the alert* — Watchful; vigilant: *e.g.* You cannot deceive him in regard to the stock market for he is *on the alert*.

*On the contrary* — On the other hand; in opposition: *e.g.* The prisoner did not succeed in escaping, *on the contrary* he was caught and put in irons.

*On the sly* — Slyly; secretly, in a secret manner: *e.g.* The carpenter's son was married *on the sly*.

*An open question* — A point not settled by a decision ; a point still under dispute : *e.g.* "The difficulties were all grouped round two questions—a permanent constitution and a new Parliament without the former : Cromwell saw that everything remained *an open question*."

*Out and out* — (1) thorough-going (2) thoroughly, completely, (3) without reservation, openly : *e.g.* (1) He is an *out and out* Christian ; (2) An envious family, or a quarrelsome family, or a malicious family, or even an *out and out* mean family, would open a field of action I might do something in ; (3) His house near Richmond was advertised for sale and bought *out and out* by a man who had grown rich in Mr. D's service.

*Out of sight, out of mind* — One's interest in another continues only so long as they come and go to each other : *e.g.* You have not remembered my request—it is a case of *out of sight, out of mind*.

*Out with it* — confess the real truth : *e.g.* Well then, how much did you spend on drink last night ? *Out with it*.

*Out of the question* — Unworthy of discussion, impracticable : *e.g.* Intimacy between Miss Shanta and me is *out of the question*.

*Out of print* — No longer for sale by the publisher ; out of stock and no longer to be printed : *e.g.* That book is *out of print*.

*Over and over again* — Repeatedly ; often. *e.g.* We have driven on that road *over and over again*.

## P

*To keep pace with* — To progress equally with ; to go at the same speed as : *e.g.* Agriculture (in the States) has

*kept pace with* manufacturing industry, while it has far outstripped commerce.

*On pain of or under pain of* — The penalty of disobedience being: *e.g.* It was proclaimed that the lives and property of the peaceful inhabitants should be respected *on pain of* death.

*I beg pardon* — (1) kindly say again what you have said; (2) excuse me (used when a person makes a mistake); (3) Doubtful whether he had heard aright: (1) He said, "*I beg your pardon*"; (2) "*I beg your pardon*—I thought you meant that, or I would have answered it.

*Of parts* — Very able; efficient: *e.g.* The occasion was one which required a man of experience and *parts* to hold office.

*To part with* — To be separated from; to let go; to lose: *e.g.* It was very hard for us *to part with* the servant who had been in our family so many years.

*In passing* — By the way; in a cursory way: *e.g.* As he was something of a character, I must be allowed a word or two about him *in passing*.

*To pay dearly for* — To pay a heavy penalty for; to receive a severe punishment for, *e.g.* The Admiral *paid dearly for* his ruinous mistake at Helena.

*Pell mell* — In a confused manner; in confusion: *e.g.* The cry "fire" at the theatre created quite a panic and the people rushed *pell mell* through the doors.

*Pros and cons* — The reason for and against anything; advantages and disadvantages. *e.g.* The Judge heard the arguments, *pro and con*, in reference to pardoning the man who was in prison for forgery.

*Of a piece with* — Of the same sort ; like ; similar : *e.g.*  
conduct is *of a piece with* his master's.

*It is a pity* — It is much to be regretted : *e.g.* *It is a pity* that  
as we grow up towards the maturity of our faculties  
we fall away in so many respects from what our child-  
hood promised.

*To call into play* — To bring into use : *e.g.* Memory is the  
chief faculty *called into play*, in coming over and re-  
peating lessons by heart in grammar.

*To make it a point of* — (1) to make it a rule with oneself  
(to do something), (2) to decide ; (3) to be sure of : *e.g.*  
(1) “*I made a point of* paying my own bills and I advised  
every one to do the same ; (2) I felt uneasy at the idea  
of his being left entirely to his own discretion on his  
first debate and therefore *I made a point of* attending  
on the important day ; (3) The rain always *made a*  
*point of* setting in just as he had some out-door work  
o do.

*To take possession* — To seize ; to occupy ; to occupy one's  
mind entirely : *e.g.* At length, having killed the  
defendant, he actually *took possession*.

*It never rains but it pours* — Whenever it rains, it rains in  
abundance ; a misfortune or a lucky chance never  
comes alone : *e.g.* ‘ It is a common saying that sorrows  
never come alone, that *it never rains but pours*. ’

*To pour oil on troubled waters* — To quiet a disturbed state of  
affairs ; to conciliate parties : *e.g.* The meeting was very  
tumultuous, but the President by his speech *poured oil*  
*on the troubled waters*.

*I promise you* — I declare to you; you may be certain : *e.g.* Will not the ladies be afraid of the lion ? I fear it, *I promise you.*

*On purpose* — With previous design ; purposely : *e.g.* Most of the theatres keep an author *on purpose.*

*To the purpose* — To the point : *e.g.* He wanted to speak plain and *to the purpose.*

*To answer the purpose* — To meet the requirement : *e.g.* From this model he invented an iron table which was found effectually *to answer the purpose.*

*For all practical purposes* — So far as it is capable of being turned to use; practically : *e.g.* The old bridge of boats had been, *for all practical purposes,* destroyed.

*To put to the proof* — To test ; *e.g.* His honesty was severely *put to the proof.*

## Q

*In question* — Referred to under discussion : *e.g.* He proceeded to argue the point *in question* with much logic and sagacity.

*To be out of the question* — To be quite impracticable, to be unworthy of discussion : *e.g.* So long as religious liberty was made a condition peace was *out of the question.*

*Quick as thought* — Very quickly. *e.g.* The boy who was bathing was carried down by the current ; but *quick as thought* he seized a projecting limb, and was saved.

*Quite the contrary* — Completely different ; exactly opposite *e.g.* I thought the study of history would be uninteresting, but I found it *quite the contrary.*

*Qualification for* — Capacity requisite for. *e.g.* "There is no *qualification for* government but virtue and wisdom, actual or presumptive" — BURKE.

*Burning question* — A question that is being very keenly discussed; a subject that causes general excitement. *e.g.* "The people like to be roused by red hot, scorching speeches; they want *burning questions* intolerable grievances" BESANT.

## R

*Rainy day* — Time of trouble and difficulty: *e.g.* They live within their means and lay something by against a *rainy day*.

*To read between the lines* — To see a writer's concealed meaning; to understand the pith of a writing, its real meaning not being obvious: *e.g.* I can guess your purpose, I can *read between the lines*.

*To serve one right* — To treat one as one deserves; to give one the punishment one deserves: *e.g.* Sir, I beg your pardon, I horsewhipped him and I *served him right*.

*A royal road* — A road without difficulties: an easy way to lead to some place or desired object: *e.g.* There is no *royal road* by which men can raise themselves from a position which they feel to be uncomfortable and unsatisfactory.

*Rome was not built in a day* — Great results cannot be obtained in a short period; patience is required in the production of anything valuable: *e.g.* He hadn't had time to put that in, and show his artistic skill; Sure *Rome was not built in a day*.

*To rake up* — To collect by minute and mean search. *e.g.*  
The lawyer, in his plea in the divorce case, *raked up* all the prejudicial stories and incidents of the husband's life.

*Rake up an old story* — Recollect and repeat an old story (about person). *e.g.* We should not *rake up old stories* about others because that may offend them.

*Right and left* — On all sides ; in every direction. *e.g.* (1) — Being attacked by a gang of rowdies, he struck out bravely, *right and left*. (2) At the end of every quarter he sent out his bills *right and left*.

*Rob in Peter to pay Paul* — withholding what is due or necessary in one direction, to bestow it in another. *e.g.*  
The man who almost starved his cow, in order to keep his horse, *robbed Peter to pay Paul*.

*To run for one's life* — To run in order to escape great danger. *e.g.* The herdsman was crossing the field, when he was pursued by a bull, and forced to *run for his life*.

*Rush into* — Move into with impetuosity, violence. *e.g.*  
"He *rushed into* the field, and fore most fighting, fell."  
BYRON.

*Reign of terror.* *e.g.* Within France the *reign of terror* was over ; but the reign of law had not commenced.

*Repay in one's own coin* — Retaliate in the same manner. *e.g.*  
The politician attacked the editor in a speech, and the editor *paid him in his own coin*.

*Roll in wealth* — Be greatly wealthy. *e.g.* "The substantial distinction lay between the few families that *rolled*

*in wealth* and the miserably poor who were entirely destitute—MERIVALE.

*Rope of sand* — A feeble union ; a band or tie easily broken.  
*e.g.* (1) Friendship with an insincere person is only a *rope of sand*. (2) "All his projects and hopes melted away like *ropes of sand*"—SMILES.

*Reap the fruit of* — Obtain the reward, or undergo the punishment, arising from. *e.g.* "If she be destroyed, she will but *reap the fruit of* her own rashness."—  
 FROUDE.

*Rush through* — More rapidly and violently through. *e.g.*  
 The zamindari bill was *rushed through* the council.

*Sail under the false colors, to* — To pretend to be what one is not. *e.g.* Adventurers, *sailing under the false colors*, sometimes succeed in being welcomed in good society.

*Sharpen the wits to* — To arouse the mind to activity ; to quicken the intellect. *e.g.* The dull boy must *sharpen the wits*, if he would keep his place in his class.

*Shoulder to shoulder* — Presenting a united front, as soldiers in close formation ; united for common effort or co-operation. *e.g.* We are strongest when we are labouring *shoulder to shoulder* for some common object.

*Slip through the fingers, to* — To be lost ; to escape insensibly. *e.g.* So, between them, the lady generally *slipped through* their *fingers*.

*Slip of the tongue* — The error of saying one thing while intending to say another. *e.g.* By a *slip of the tongue*

Mr. A said, that his son lived in Cuddalore instead of Kurnool.

*A slip of the pen* — A mistake unconsciously made by a writer: *e.g.* He must have made or have copied some *slip of the pen*.

*There is many a slip between the cup and the lip* — One cannot be sure of a thing before it is actually in one's possession, a man cannot count on anything until it is actually in his grasp: *e.g.* *There's many a slip between the cup and the lip!* Who knows what may happen, Mr. Hunter or who will sit in Parliament for Chamberlain next session?

*Swim with the stream or tide* — To conform to the popular opinion; to move with the prevailing current. *e.g.* Many a man secures office and riches, by *swim with the tide*.

*True to the salt* — Faithful to his employers: *e.g.* The sepoys were *true to their salt* up to the last moment.

*To stand on ceremony* — To be a strict observer of forms of civility, to be too ceremonious in one's behaviour: *e.g.* "But William, who seldom *stood on ceremony* took Port-land for a travelling companion."

*Sail in the same boat with* — Be equally exposed to risk or danger or misfortune with (a person).

*Seek one's fortune* — Try to secure fortune. *e.g.* Being baffled in his own country, he went abroad to *seek his fortune*.

*Snap one's finger at, to* — To disregard; to despise. *e.g.* The judge *snapped his fingers at* the accusation that he partial in his decision.

*So far forth* — As far ; to such a degree. *e.g.* *So far forth* as you shall deserve mention for your good conduct, you shall be mentioned.

*So forth* — Further in the same or a similar manner ; more of the same or a similar kind. *e.g.* The fruit merchant has received a 'supply of oranges, lemons, figs, bananas, and *so forth*.

*So much the better* — Still better. *e.g.* Come and take tea with me to-day, and if you can spend the evening, *so much the better*.

*Speak volumes, to* — To convey much information ; to have weight as an argument. *e.g.* The discoveries made by the excavations at Pompeii *speaking volumes* regarding the life of the people of that buried city.

## T

*At times* — Occasionally ; sometimes : *e.g.* She knew that *at times* she must be missed.

*For the time being* — For the present ; temporarily : *e.g.* The temper of both parties was improved *for the time being* by the enjoyments of the table.

*In touch with* — In sympathy with : *e.g.* Here in this country the rulers are not much *in touch with* the ruled.

*Through thick and thin* — Through whatever may be in the way ; through all obstacles. *e.g.* He came *through thick and thin*, in order to reach home in time for the wedding.

*Tit for tat* — An equivalent. *e.g.* He used my cycle without leave, and I gave him *tit for tat* by using his car without leave.

*To a large extent* — In a great degree ; considerably. *e.g.* It is to be feared that the report of the losses by the storm are true, *to a large extent*.

*Tooth and nail* — Biting and scratching ; by every possible means. *e.g.* He fought *tooth and nail* to win the case.

*Tremble in the balance, to* — To be undecided ; uncertain ; to be in a position where a small thing may decide the issue one way or another. *e.g.* During the trial the fate of the murderer *trembles in the balance*.

*Turning point* — The point of change ; the critical point ; the point upon which a question turns. *e.g.* (1) His marriage was the *turning point* in his life. (2) His appointment to this office was the *turning point* in his career.

*Turn over a new leaf, to* — (1) To reform an evil habit ; (2) to begin a new course of life. *e.g.* (1) I learned that he was acquiring a fondness for gambling, and I exhorted him to *turn over a new leaf*. (2) The man who was dissipated, *turn over a new leaf* at the beginning of the year.

*Take the law into one's own hand* — To take upon one's self the execution of a law. *e.g.* A mob *takes the law into its own hands*, when it hangs a horse-thief.

*The march of intellect* — Intellectual progress and its results, progress in knowledge. *e.g.* *The march of intellect* in the present day is wonderful.

*Through fire and water* — Through many and severe obstacles, or dangers. *e.g.* Dr. Livingstone went *through fire and water*, in his journeys of exploration in Africa.

*To turn the corner* — To pass the critical stage; to mend or improve in fortune or health. *e.g.* We have every reason to hope that the worst of the depression is over and we have once more to *turn the corner*.

*Ups and downs* — Prosperity and adversity: *e.g.* "I have had my *ups and downs* in the world, to be sure, but so have many men besides."

*Under lock and key* — In an apartment or receptacle closed by a lock and key; securely kept. *e.g.* The prisoners in jail are *under lock and key*.

*Under the hand and seal* — Authenticated by the signature and seal. *e.g.* The deed of my farm closes with this sentence: Given *under my hand and seal*.

*Upside down* — In confusion; in complete disorder. *e.g.* My goods have just been moved into the house and everything is *upside down*.

*Up to the mark* — Equal to the standard; of the quality expected. *e.g.* This piece of work is not *up to the mark*.

*With a vengeance* — With great violence; *e.g.* She scolded her servant *with a vengeance* for breaking the pitcher.

*Vice versa* — The reverse marking an interchange of positions: *e.g.* His knowledge of Tamil is sound for he can with facility translate English into Tamil and *vice versa*.

*Ventilate a question* — To make it public; to expose it to examination and discussion. *e.g.* The "Indian Express" was the first newspaper to *ventilate the subject* of the severe punishment practiced in our schools.

*Vest in* — Invest in. *e.g.* Mr. Nathan has *vested* a good deal of money *in bank*.

*Vanish into air* — Be wholly lost to view. *e.g.* A large portion of the bridge *vanished into air*.

## W

*To wait upon or on* — (1) To attend one; to attend to the want of a person (2) to visit on business; to pay a formal visit: *e.g.* We had no one to *wait on* us at dinner to-day.

*To walk in the way of* — To follow the example of: *e.g.* The young man is doing his best *to walk in the ways* of his worthy father.

*To go to the wall* — To fail, to be unsuccessful: *e.g.* Quacks prosper as often as they *go to the wall*.

*To go the way of all flesh* — To die: *e.g.* His former retainer, Phil Judd has *gone the way of all flesh*.

*To be under weigh* — To be in motion: *e.g.* But though the steamer *was under weigh* he might not be on board.

*Upon my word* — I assure you, I can swear: *e.g.* He does seem indeed, *upon my word*, a most excellent creature.

*Wet blanket* — Something which disappoints and discourages a person in his purpose or pursuit. *e.g.* Do not throw a *wet blanket* on the enterprise of a public library,

*Within reach* — Able to be obtained. *e.g.* The trial of the bank robber was postponed because one of the important witnesses was not *within reach*.

*Wash one's hand of, to* — To withdraw from altogether; repudiate. *e.g.* (1) He has *washed his hands of* the liquor business. (2) I *wash my hands of* the charge of bribery.

## X

*Xerxes' tears* — Tears of hypocrisy: from the Persian king, who when, he reviewed his army for the invasion of Greece, wept at the thought:  
 "Of all this multitude, who shall say how many will return ?i'

*Years of discretion* — Age of maturity; an age when one is able to judge what is and what is not wrong: *e.g.* We must not expect too much of the young, before they arrive at *years of discretion*.

*Yield one's self up* — Surrender; give one's self up. *e.g.* "At other times they are quite off the hinges, *yield themselves up* to the way of their lusts and passions—"

SHARPE.

*Year after year* — One year after another; many years. *e.g.* The two neighbours regularly journeyed to the mountains, in company, *year after year*.

## Z

*Zero-hour* — The time for action: *e.g.* "We reached the front at 11 p.m. and not until our arrival there were we informed of the *zero-hour*—the time when the attack was to be made. The hour of 12-10 had been selected."

## Part III

### Some useful Idiomatic phrases.

Abandoned hope  
subject submission  
abnormal talents  
abundant opportunity  
accommodating temper  
accredited agent  
accursed enemy  
aching desire  
acoustical effects  
administered rebuke  
admittedly inferior  
adventurous mind  
affected indifference  
affluent language  
aggressive selfishness  
agile mind  
alarms rapidity  
all-pervading influence  
allied subjects  
altogether dissimilar  
ambitious project  
amiable solicitude  
amicable arrangement  
amorous youth  
animated eloquence  
antagonistic views  
apologetic explanation  
appalling difficulties  
aptly suggested  
arch conspirator  
aristocratic lineage

aromatic fragrance  
artistic elegance  
artless candor  
ascending supremacy  
ascetic devotion  
assumed humiliation  
athletic prowess  
augmented force  
auspicious moment  
autocratic power  
available data  
avowed intention  
axiomatic truth

Bad omen  
baffled sagacity  
base intrigues  
baseful modesty  
basic principles  
beseeching gesture  
bestial ferocity  
bewitching airs  
bitter recrimination  
bottomless abyss  
boundless admiration  
bountiful supply  
brisk energy  
bulky figure  
burning zeal  
business acumen

Calamities course  
 coaxing eloquence  
 comforting reassurance  
 compassionate love.  
 concerted action  
 conscientious objection  
 contradictory theories  
 coveted honors  
 creditable performance  
 criminal negligence

Dashing gallantry  
 dauntless courage  
 decisive manner  
 deep seated curiosity  
 devastating effect  
 dictatorial manner  
 diplomatic skill  
 dishonourable submission  
 documentary evidence  
 dominating influence  
 drastic action

Earthly splendor  
 enduring charm  
 enforced silence  
 enhanced reputation  
 exquisite tact

Faltering tongue  
 fearless integrity  
 fierce resentment  
 flashing wit  
 foregone conclusion

Gifted intelligence  
 golden opportunity  
 gorgeous spendor  
 grievously mistaken  
 gross exaggeration  
 groundless fear

Hackneyed statement  
 haribreadth difference  
 heartfelt amity  
 heated discussion  
 heritating courage

Ignominious retreat  
 immeasurable scorn  
 immortal creation  
 impartial justice  
 impassioned impulse  
 impelling movement  
 implicit faith  
 important epoch  
 inadvertent remark  
 incomparable excellence  
 indomitable pride  
 interpolated speech  
 irksome task  
 iron resolution  
 irrefutable argument  
 irrelevant suggestion  
 irresponsible gossip  
 irrevocable verdict  
 irritable impatience

Jealous animosity  
 judicial impartiality

Keen insight  
 kindled enthusiasm  
 kindred sympathy

Lacerated feelings  
 lamentable helplessness  
 laughable absurdity  
 legislative enactment  
 lifelong adherence  
 literary research  
 living manifestation

Magnanimous concessions  
magnificent fascination  
maidenly timidity  
majestic dignity  
manifold functions  
manual dexterity  
marketable commodity  
matchless charm  
matrimonial alliance  
mean trickeries  
meaningless confusion  
melting mood  
memorable experience  
military autocracy  
misspent strength  
mistaken assumption  
monstrous absurdity

Negligible quantity  
nerveless hand  
nervous solicitude  
noteworthy friendship  
numerical majority

Observant eye  
occasional flights  
oratorical display  
outspoken encouragement  
overflowing sympathy

Palatable advice  
paramount authority  
penniless wanderer  
pertinent question

picturesque details  
popular resentment  
precocious wisdom  
profitable adventure  
prolonged happiness  
public derision

Querulous disposition  
quibbling speech

Racial prejudice  
radiant happiness  
radical distinction  
redoubled activity  
remarkable sagacity  
retaliating blows  
retreating footsteps  
revolutionary tradition

Sagacious mind  
scholarly attainments  
searching eye  
seditious speaking  
shabby imitation  
shameless injustice  
sharp rebuke  
sincere hospitality  
slavish imitation  
sparkling splendor  
specialized skill  
speechless surprise  
stainless womanhood  
sudden perturbation  
superlative cleverness  
superior skill  
sustained vigor

Tacit assumption  
 tameless energy  
 temperamental complacency  
 termagant wife  
 thankless task  
 throny pathway  
 trembling anxiety  
 tumultuous rapture

Ulterior purpose  
 ultimate sanction  
 unabated pleasure  
 unassuming dignity  
 unbecoming behavior  
 uncompromising dogmatism  
 uncontrollable delight  
 undaunted defender  
 undeniable charm  
 underlying assumption  
 undisturbed silence  
 unduly troublesome  
 undying friendship  
 unfathomable indifference  
 unfettered liberty  
 unflinching zeal  
 unimpeachable sentiment  
 unique personality  
 universal reprobation  
 unpalatable truth  
 unparalleled atrocities  
 unpardonable error  
 unquestionable genius  
 unremitting toil  
 unrequited love  
 unseasonable apology

unsurpassed purity  
 unswerving integrity  
 untold calamity  
 untoward circumstances  
 untutored mind  
 unusual audacity  
 unutterable sadness  
 unwelcome alliance  
 unyielding nature  
 uproarious laughter  
 utmost scorn

Vacant stupidity  
 vain contemplation  
 valuable acquisition

Wanton butchery  
 wasteful prodigality  
 wavering courage  
 weighty argument  
 welcoming host  
 whispering breeze  
 whistling winds  
 winking stars  
 womanlike loveliness  
 wonderful affluence  
 worthy achievement

Yearning tenderness  
 yielding disposition  
 youthful ambition

Zealous devotion  
 zigzag method

# Prepositional Phrases

## PREPOSITION "OF"

Abandon of spontaneity  
aberrations of judgment  
accuracy of aim  
activity of attention  
admixture of fear

Ban of exclusion  
bars of sunlight  
beam of moonlight  
beast of prey  
beauty of imagery

Calmness of manner  
calumny of passion  
careless of opinion  
chain of evidence  
clash of arms

Darkness of calamity  
day of reckoning  
daylight of faith  
depth of despair  
difference of opinion

Earnestness of enthusiasm  
effect of loveliness  
eloquence of passion  
emotions of joy  
energy of youth

Fabric of fact  
facility of expression  
failure of co-ordination  
fit of laughter  
flag of truce

Garlands of roses  
gateway of fancy  
gem of truth  
glamor of sensationalism  
glimmer of suspicion

Harbor of refuge  
harvest of regrets  
haven of rest  
hopeful of success  
horizon of life

Idol of society  
illusion of youth  
impotent of ideas  
independence of mind  
infinity of height

Jangle of sounds  
jumble of facts  
justness of decision

Keeness of intellect  
key of knowledge  
keynote of success  
king of finance

Lack of restraint  
lapse of time  
legacy of thought  
liberty of conscience  
light of experience

Magnanimity of mind  
man of iron  
master of phrasing  
minister of vengeance  
miracle of miracles

Neglect of duty  
 nightingale of affection  
 nobility of purpose  
 note of triumph

Obligation of loyalty  
 ocean of eloquence  
 omission of fact  
 openness of mind  
 ornaments of eloquence

Passion of patriotism  
 pendulum of opinion  
 perils of fortune  
 perversity of chance  
 plainness of speech

Qualities of leadership  
 question of honor  
 quickness of apprehension

Radiance of morning  
 rashness of intention  
 ray of hope  
 realities of life  
 redress of grievance

Sadness of soul  
 sanity of judgment

school of adversity  
 scarp of knowledge  
 searchlight of truth

Task of conciliation  
 tempest of passion  
 tenderness of sentiment  
 term of reproach  
 thrift of time

Unity of purpose  
 universality of experience :

Valley of misfortune  
 vehemence of manner  
 vehicle of intercourse  
 veil of futurity  
 velocity of movement

Waste of opportunity  
 wave of depression  
 wealth of meaning  
 weariness of sorrow  
 weight of argument.

Yoke of convention

Zest of enjoyment  
 of delusion

### PREPOSITION "BY"

Affected by externals  
 appraised by fashion  
 assailed by conscience  
 attained by effort  
 avert by prayer

Beset by difficulties

bound by opinion  
 branded by defeat

Characterized by discretion  
 chastened by sorrow  
 condemned by posterity  
 confirmed by habit

consoled by prayer  
convinced by argument

Darkened by shadows  
depraved by pain  
devoured by curiosity  
driven by remorse

Encouraged by success  
enfeebled by age  
enforced by action  
enjoined by religion  
established by convention

Fascinated by mystery  
favored by fortune  
fired by wrath  
forbid by authority  
fortified by faith

Governed by precedent  
guided by instinct

Haunted by visions  
hushed by denial

Impelled by duty  
induced by misrepresentation  
influenced by caution  
inspired by love

Learned by rote

Marked by acuteness  
measured by years

Narrowed by custom

Occasioned by irritation  
Oppressed by destiny

Parched by disuse  
Persuaded by appeal  
Portray by words  
Prescribed by custom  
Prevented by chance  
Purged by sorrow

Racked by suffering  
Refuted by reason  
Restrained by violence

Sanctioned by experience  
Soured by misfortune  
Supplanted by others  
Supported by evidence

Thwarted by fortune  
Tempered by charity  
Tormented by jealousy  
Tortured by doubt

Undaunted by failure  
Undetermined by sorrow  
Undone by treachery  
Urged by curiosity

Vitalized by thought

Won by aggression  
Worn by time  
Wrenched by emotions

## PREPOSITION "IN"

Absorbed in meditation<sup>1</sup>  
**affable** in manner  
**atone** in measure

**Barren** in intellect -  
**basking** in sunshine  
**buried** in solitude

**Call** in question  
**clothed** in truth  
**confident** in opinion  
**contemplative** in aspect

**Deficient** in insight  
**delight** in learning  
**difference** in detail  
**diligent** in application

**End** in smoke  
**enumerate** in detail  
**experienced** in duplicity

**Feeble** in influence  
**fertile** in consequence  
**flourish** in luxuriance  
**founded** in truth

**Gaze** in astonishment  
**go** in pursuit  
**graceful** in proportion  
**grievously** in error

**Hold** in bondage

**Immersed** in thought  
**inferior** in character  
**influential** in society  
**involved** in obscurity

**Kept** in abeyance

**Landmarks** in memory  
**lie** in wait  
**limited** in scope  
**lower** in estimation

**Monstrous** in dulness  
**mysterious** in origin

**Noble** in amplitude  
**nursed** in luxury

**Organized** in thought

**Petulant** in expression  
**plead** in vain  
**pleasing** in outline  
**plunged** in darkness  
**pursued** in leisure

**Quick** in suggestion

**Ready** in resource  
**remote** in character  
**revel** in danger  
**rich** in variety

**Schooled** in self-restraint  
**set** in motion  
**skilled** in controversy  
**sound** in theory  
**striking** in character

**Tender** in sentiment

**Unique** in literature  
**unity** in diversity  
**unprecedented** in kind

Versed in knowledge

Wanting in dignity  
weak in conception

### PREPOSITION "INTO"

Abashed into silence

Kindled into action

Beguile into reading  
betray into speech  
bring into disrepute  
burst into view

Lash into silence  
launch into disapproval  
lead into captivity

Call into question  
carry into conflict  
crumbled into dust  
crystallized into action

Melt into space  
merge into character

Dash into fragments  
deepen into confusion  
dissolve into nothingness  
dragged into pursuit  
dragged into servitude

Pass into oblivion  
plunge into despair

Electrify into activity  
enter into controversy  
expand into weakness

Quicken into life  
Rendered into music  
resolved into nothingness  
rush into print

Fall into decay  
fashion into festoons  
flame into war  
fuse into unity

Shocked into attention  
sink into insignificance  
stricken into silence

Go into raptures  
goaded into action

Take into account  
thrown into disorder  
transform into beauty

Hushed into silence

Usher into society

Vanish into mastery

Incursions into controversy  
insight into truth  
inveigled into dispute

Wander into digression  
withdraw into solitude

## PREPOSITION "TO"

Addicted to flattery  
 adherence to principle  
 affect to believe  
 alive to opportunity  
 attempt to suppress  
 aversion to publicity

Blind to demonstration  
 brought to repentance

Come to nothing  
 common to humanity  
 conducive to happiness  
 constrained to speak  
 contribution to knowledge

Dedicated to friendship  
 deference to custom  
 driven to despair

Empowered to art  
 excite to pity

Fly to plantitudes  
 foredoomed to failure

Ground to atoms

Harassed to death  
 hostile to progress

Impervious to suggestion  
 impossible to reconcile  
 incitement to anger

indifference to truth  
 intent to deceive  
 invocation to sleep

Laugh to scorn  
 left to conjecture  
 lost to remembrance

Obedience to conscience  
 offensive to modesty  
 open to reason

Propose to undertake  
 provoke to laughter  
 put to confusion

Recourse falsehood  
 reduced to impotence  
 resort to violence

Stimulus to ambition  
 subject to scrutiny  
 superior to circumstances

Temptation to doubt  
 trust to chance

Utilize to advantage

Venture to say  
 vital to success

Wedded to antiquity

Yield to reason

## PREPOSITION "WITH"

Abounding with plenty	Laugh with glee
accord with nature	
act with deliberation	Meet with rebuke
anticipate with delight	mingled with curiosity
Big with fate	Overcome with shyness
blinded with tears	overflowing with love
blush with shame	
bubbling with laughter	Performed with regularity
burn with indignation	punish with severity
Clothe with authority	Quicken with pride
compatible with freedom	quiver with anxiety
comply with tradition	
conceal with difficulty	Radiant with victory
crush with sorrow	regard with loathing
	repel with indignation
Depressed with fear	Saddle with responsibility
dispense with formality	scrutinize with care
distort with passion	seething with sedition
Endow with intelligence	
endured with fortitude	Thrill with excitement
examine with curiosity	touched with feeling
	treat with contempt
Face with indifference	tremble with fear
flushed with pride	
Glowing with delight	Unmixed with emotion
	utter with sarcasm
Inconsistent with beauty	Vibrant with feeling
inspired with patriotism	view with awe
intoxicated with joy	
Kindle with enthusiasm	Wield with power
	work with zeal

## Commercial Phrases

A telegram is enclosed for your use as this matter is urgent  
Accept our thanks for your recent remittance  
Acknowledging the receipt of your recent inquiry  
After very carefully considering  
Again thanking you for the inquiry  
Agreeable to our conversation  
An addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience  
An early reply will greatly oblige  
Answering your recent inquiry  
Any information you may give us will be appreciated  
Any time that may suit your convenience  
As a matter of convenience and economy  
As a special favor we ask  
As directed in your letter, we are shipping to you  
As explained in our previous letter  
As stated in our previous letter  
As we have received no response from you  
As you, doubtless, are aware  
As you probably have been told  
As your experience has probably shown you  
Assuring you of every courtesy  
Assuring you of prompt and careful co-operation  
At your earliest opportunity  
Awaiting the favor of your prompt attention  
Awaiting the pleasure of serving you  
Awaiting your early communication  
Awaiting your further commands  
Awaiting your pleasure  
Believing you will answer this promptly

Complying with your request  
Conditions **make** it obligatory for us

Do not hesitate to let us know  
Do not overlook this opportunity  
Do you realise that you can

Enclosed please find a memorandum  
Enclosed we beg to hand you  
Enclosed you will find a circular which will fully explain

For some years past  
For your convenience we enclose a stamped envelope  
For your further information we take pleasure in send-  
ing to you.  
Frankly, we believe it is extremely worth while for you  
From the standpoint of serviceability

Here is a complete answer to

Here is your opportunity

Hoping for a continuance of your interest

Hoping for a definite reply

● Hoping that our relations may prove mutually satis-  
factory

Hoping to be favored with your order

How **may** we serve you further ?

However, because of the special circumstances attached

I **am** compelled to inform you

I **am** confident that you will be thoroughly satisfied

I **am** directed to say to you

I am, gentlemen, yours faithfully

I am giving the matter my personal attention

I am, my dear sir, yours faithfully

I am still holding this offer open to you

I ask that you be good enough

I beg to request that you give me some information

I have now much pleasure in confirming

I have pleasure in acknowledging

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt

I have the honor to remain

I herewith submit my application

I regret exceedingly to inform you

I remain, my dear sir, yours faithfully.

If I can be of further service, please address me

If it is not convenient for you

If you desire, our representative will call

In conclusion, we can assure you

In order to facilitate our future transactions

In response to your recent request

In spite of our best efforts it is not probable

It is our very great pleasure to advise you

It seems clear that our letter must have miscarried

It was purely an oversight on our part

It will be entirely satisfactory to us

It will be our aim to interest you

It will receive the same careful attention

Just mail the enclosed card

Kindly endorse your reply on the enclosed sheet

Kindly let us have your confirmation at your earliest convenience

Kindly let us know your pleasure concerning

Kindly read the enclosed list

Let me thank for the opportunity to give this matter  
my personal attention

Let us assure you of our desire to co-operate with you

Let us assure you that we are very much pleased

Let us know if there is any further attention

Let us thank you again for opening an account with us

Looking forward to the early receipt of some of your  
orders

May I ask you to do us a great favor by

May we be favored with a reply

Meantime soliciting your forbearance

Meanwhile permit me to thank you for your kind  
attention

On referring to your account we notice

Our letter must have gone astray

Our services are at your command

Our stock has been temporarily exhausted

Permit me to add

Please consider this letter an acknowledgment

Please favour us with a personal communication

Promptly on receipt of your telegram

Pursuant to your letter

Referring to your esteemed favor

Regretting our inability to serve you in the present  
instance

Requesting your kind attention to this matter

Should you decide to act upon this latter suggestion  
So many requests of a similar nature come to us  
Soliciting a continuance of your patronage

Thanking you for your inquiry  
Thanking you for your past patronage  
Thanking you for your promptness  
Thanking you in advance for an early reply  
Thanking you in anticipation  
The cause for the delay were beyond our control  
Therefore we trust you will write to us promptly  
Trusting that we may have the pleasure of serving you

Under separate cover we are mailing to you  
Under these circumstances we are willing to extend the  
terms

Unfortunately we are compelled to certain times  
Unless you can give us reasonable assurance  
Upon being advised that these terms are satisfactory  
Upon receiving your letter of

We acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of your order  
We admit that you are justified in your complaint  
We again thank you for your inquiry  
We always endeavor to please  
We appreciate the order you were kind enough to send  
to us

We appreciate your patronage very much  
We are always glad to furnish information  
Your early attention to this matter will oblige  
Your further orders will be esteemed  
Your trial order is respectfully solicited,

## Part IV

### Miscellaneous Phrases

Phrases and idioms expressed in different ways to convey the same sense.

#### EXPRESSIONS OF DEATH.

To breath one's last ; to cease to live ; to depart this life ; to be no more ; to give up the ghost ; to pay the debt of nature ; to be all over with one ; to take one's last sleep ; to shuffle off this mortal coil ; to go to one's last home ; to go the way of all flesh ; to be numbered with the dead.

#### TO REVENGE.

To wreak one's vengeance ; to breaths vengeance ; to harbour vindictive feelings.

#### TO FORGIVE

To pass over ; to make allowance for.

#### TO BE ASHAMED.

To feel shame ; to feel disgrace ; to hide one's face ; to laugh on the wrong side of the mouth

#### TO RAIN HARD.

To rain in torrents ; to rain cats and dogs.

#### TO BE MISTAKEN.

To labour under a mistake ; to take the the shadow for the substance ; to receive a false impression ; to fall in to a mistake.

#### TO REMEMBER.

To bear or keep in mind ; to retain, have or carry in the memory ; to call to mind ; to cal to remembrance.

## TO REMIND.

To put in mind ; to jog or refresh the memory ; to bring back to the memory ; to put in remembrance.

## TO BELIEVE.

To give credit to ; to rely upon ; to confide in ; to take one's word for ; to take one at one's word ; to take upon trust or credit ; to take for granted ; to run away with the notion.

## TO DOUBT.

To have, harbour, or entertain doubts ; to call in question ; to float in a sea of doubts ; to hang in suspense or in doubt.

## TO BE RESOLVED.

To make up one's mind ; to determind once for all ; to come to a determination ; to form a resolution.

## TO DECEIVE.

To throw dust into one eyes ; to pay one a trick ; to practise on one's credulity ; to lead one by the nose ; to make a fool of one.

## TO TAKE CARE OR TO BE CAREFUL.

— To see to ; to keep an eye upon ; to look sharp ; to look about ; to have all one's eyes about one ; to mind one's P's Q's

## TO ATTEND TO.

To give or pay attention to ; direct the mind the eye, or attention to ; to give a thought to ; to fix the mind, thoughts, or attention on.

## TO EXAMINE CURSORILY.

To glance at, upon or over ; to pass the eyes over ; to run over ; to take a cursory view of.

## TO HAPPEN (Transpire or turn out).

To take place, come about, come to pass.

## TO ADHERE. To cling like ivy.

To stick like a leech ; to stick like wax.

ABOUT (regarding).

As to; as for; as regards; with regard to; with respect to, (concerning); in respect of (in point of), in connection with,

UNFORTUNATELY.

As ill-luck would have it; in an evil hour.

TO SUPPOSE (to dare say).

To give a guess; to throw out a conjecture.

TO HATE.

To owe one a grudge, to bear malice or harbour malice against one. To conceive an aversion to one.

TO BE ANGRY.

To pour out the phials of one's wrath; to lose one's temper; to quiver, swell, or foam with rage; to breathe revenge; to stamp the foot: to stand on one's hind legs, to give vent to one's anger.

TO OFFEND.

To give offence or umbrage.

TO BE OFFENDED.

To take it ill; to take it in bad part, to take offence or umbrage; to view in a bad light; to take amiss.

TO IRRITATE (excite anger)

To kindle wrath; to make one's blood boil; to raise anger; to put one out of humour.

TO ESCAPE.

To break loose; to make one's escape; to play truant; to take oneself off; to take French leave; to make one's self scarce.

## TO PROSPER.

To rise in the world ; to make one's way ; to hold one's head above water ; to bask in the sunshine ; to feather one's nest ; to push one's fortunes ; to work one's way.

## INTENTIONALLY INTENDING.

On purpose ; with a view to ; with an eye to ; for the purpose of ; with the view of ; in order to.

## TO BE VERY WILLING.

To have a great mind ; to set one's heart upon ; to be bent upon.

## WILLINGLY.

With all one's heart ; with heart and soul ; of one's own accord.

To have a will of one's own ; to see one's way ; to do what one pleases, likes, wishes or chooses ; to use or exercise one's discretion.

## TO SPEAK.

To break silence ; open one's lips, to make or deliver a speech ; to have (or say) one's say ; to give utterance to ; to speak one's mind.

## TO BE SILENT.

To hold one's tongue ; to keep silence ; to hold one's peace ; to say nothing ; to close one's mouth.

## TO SILENCE ONE.

To put one to silence ; to seal one's lips ; to stop one's mouth.

## TO SUCCEED.

To come off successful ; to be crowned with success ; to win the palm ; to win or carry the day.

## TO SERVE (to wait on).

To dance attendance on ; to attend on ;

## TO BE SEVERE.

To be hard upon ; to carry matters with a high hand ; to rule with a rod of iron.

TO PROMISE.

To hold out an expectation ; to give one's word ; to pledge one's word, honor or credit.

TO BE IN OFFICE.

To hold or occupy a post ; to have hold, possess, or exercise authority ; to have the control.

TO BE INSUFFICIENT.

To come short of ; to fall or run short of.

TO PUNISH.

To inflict punishment on ; do for ; visit upon ; serve one out ; to make an example of ; to serve one right ; to tweak or pull the nose ; to box the ears ; to beat black and blue ; to beat to a mummy or jelly.

TO VIOLATE THE LAW

To take the law into one's hands ; to set the law at defiance.

TO CONFESS.

To make a clean breast of ; to open or lay bare one's mind ; to make no secret of, to plead guilty ; to disburden one's mind, conscience, or heart.

TO INFORM.

To make known ; to let one know ; to give notice ; to bring, send, leave, or write word ; to give one to understand ; to make oneself acquainted with ; to keep one informed of.

TO HINT.

To give an inkling of ; to give, drop, or throw out a hint.

TO CONCEAL.

To keep it to one's self ; to keep it in the dark ; to its secret.

## TO EXPLAIN OR ENLIGHTEN.

To give or read a lesson; to throw light upon; to open the eyes; to put one in the way; to give one new ideas.

## EXPRESSIONS OF PAIN.

To burst into tears; to cry oneself blind; to cry one's eyes out; to beat one's breast; to wring one's hand; to roll on the ground; to cry out before one is hurt; to give, fetch or heave a sigh; to make a wry face.

## EXPRESSIONS OF PLEASURE.

To laugh in one's sleeve; to burst into a fit of laughter; to roar with laughter; to die with laughter; to bless one's stars; to leap with joy.

## .CHEERFULNESS.-

To be cheerful; to cheer up; to be of good cheer to keep up one's spirits; to give a louse to mirth to make merry; to drive dull cares away.

## PAIN.

To hurt or wound the feelings; to break the heart; to wring the heart; to plant a dagger in the breast.

## .DEJECTION.

To look blue; to hang down the head; to make a long face.

## LIBERALITY.

To open one's purse strings

## SAVINGNESS.

To save money; to invest money; to hoard or accumulate money.

## ECONOMY.

To economise one's expenses; to cut one's coat according to one's cloth; to make both ends meet; to provide for, or save against a rainy day.

## Selected Proverbs.

A bargain is a bargain.  
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.  
A burnt child dreads the fire.  
A fault confessed is half redressed.  
A friend in need is a friend indeed.  
A good beginning makes a good ending.  
A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.  
A little leak will sink a great ship.  
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure..  
A penny saved is a penny earned.  
A rolling stone gathers no moss.  
A stitch in time saves nine.

Better late than never.  
Blood is thicker than water.

Coming events cast their shadows before.  
Count not your chicken before they are hatched.  
Cut your coat according to your cloth.

Defer not till to-morrow what may be done to-day.  
Diamond cuts diamond.  
Drowning men catch at straws.

Even fools sometimes speak to the purpose.  
Everybody's business is nobody's business.  
Every door may be shut, but death's door.  
Evil communications corrupt good manners.

False friends are worse than open enemies.  
Fast bind, fast find.  
From saving comes having.

God helps those who help themselves.  
Good words cost nothing, but are worth much..

Half a loaf is better than no bread.  
Have a care of a silent dog, and a still water.  
He robs Peter to pay Paul.  
He that goes a barrowing, goes a sorrowing.

He that grasps at too much, holds nothing fast.  
He that will thrive must raise at five.  
He was born with silver spoon in his mouth.  
He who would catch fish, must not mind getting wet.  
Hear twice before you speak once.  
His bark is worse than his bite.  
Honesty is the best policy.  
Hot love is soon cold

If the mountain will not come to Mahomed,  
Mahomed must go to mountain.

If the sky fall, we shall catch larks.

Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.

Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.  
Kings have long arms.  
Knowledge is power.

Law-makers should not be law-breakers.  
Life is sweet.  
Like father, like son.  
Little goods, little care.  
Little strokes fell great oaks.  
Look before you leap.

Make hay while the sun shines,  
Man proposes, God disposes.  
Manners make the man.  
Many a little makes a mickle.  
Many drops of water will sink a ship.  
Marriages or matches are made in heaven.  
Marry in haste, and repent at leisure.  
Misfortunes seldom come singly.

Necessity is the matter of invention.  
Necessity has no law.  
Never leave till to-morrow what can be done to-day.  
Never quarrel with your bread and butter.  
No gains without pains.

No man is so old, but thinks he may yet live another year.

No news is good news.

Nothing comes out of the sack but what was in it.

Of saving, comes having.

Once a man and twice a child.

One hour's sleep before midnight is worth two hours after.

One story is good till another is told.

Open confession is good for the soul.

Out of debt, out of danger.

Patience is a plaster for all sores.

Penny-wise and pound-foolish.

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Practice makes perfect.

Prevention is better than cure.

Prosperity makes friends, and adversity tries them.

Punctuality is the soul of business.

Repentance is the whip of fools.

Safe bind, safe find.

Saying and doing are two things.

Second thoughts are best.

Set a thief to catch a thief.

Silence gives consent.

Still waters run deep.

Strike while the iron is hot.

Take care of the pence ; the pounds will take care of themselves.

Tell the truth and shame the devil.

Temperance is the best physic.

The best physicians are Dr. Diet, Dr. Quiet, and Dr. Merry-man.

The empty vessel makes the greatest sound.

The more haste, the worse speed.  
There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.  
Time and tide wait for no man.  
Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Unknown, unmissed.  
Unminded, unmoved.  
Usury is the daughter of avarice.

Valour is worth little without discretion.  
Virtue is its own reward.

Walls have ears.  
Waste not, want not.  
What's done can't be undone.  
When the wine is in, the wit is out.  
When sorrow is asleep, wake is not,  
Where there is smoke there is fire.

You must learn to creep before the walk.